EAST BAY EXPRESS

JANUARY 6-12, 2010

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亲爱的梅园小朋友，
今天
星期
门在
十四天
记者会来拜访梅园
们。
?
?

Learning in Chinese

Mandarin immersion takes root in Bay Area schools. By Luke Tsai

THEATER 28

HIT FROM LEFT FIELD

"Laughter Against the Machine" strikes at Joe Lieberman, Blue Dog Democrats, and the movie *Precious*

By Rachel Swan

Collectively, the three comedians in "Laughter Against the Machine" have one Huffington Post blog, several alt-weekly columns, degrees in comparative politics and history, one long-running radio show-turned-webcast, and three ongoing critiques about hegemony and the fallacy of a "post racial" America. Theirs might be the brainiest, most literate comedy tour to hit the Bay Area this January. It's smart, it's heady, and it gets to the very edge of what's tolerable for a left-wing, politically correct audience. In fact, the comedians don't ever clarify which machine they're attacking. Sometimes it's an obvious target (Joe Lieberman, the cop who arrested Henry Louis Gates, the state of Oregon). Other times, it's a sacred cow (Tyler Perry, Kwanzaa, the movie *Precious*). Such wide-ranging assaults make the show more interesting. But they also require a little suspension of liberal mores. *Story inside*

MUSIC 42

POSTMODERN & TRADITIONAL

How Tim Eriksen became perhaps the only musician to play with both Kurt Cobain and Doc Watson

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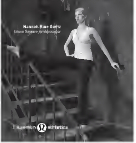

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On the Cover *Mandarin writing at Shu Ren International School. Photo by Hali McGrath*

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National advertising 888-2-RUXTON **Fax** 602-238-4805

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Small Business Monthly

The ***East Bay Express*** is proud to announce the creation of a new publication dedicated entirely to small businesses. Starting January 27, 2010, and continuing on the last Wednesday of every month, the new ***Small Business Monthly*** will be inserted into the pages of the *Express*.

Small Business Monthly
How we Roll

Small Business Monthly
Pack & Go!

Small Business Monthly
Who's On The Rack

Small Business Monthly

Small Business Monthly
Shipping & Receiving

Editorial Lineup

The ***Small Business Monthly*** will feature a variety of content about and for small businesses in the greater East Bay. The editorial lineup consists of the following:

Buy Curious
Retail news and events, including store openings and sales

Town Business
A regular column about the intersection of government policy and small business in the East Bay

Small Business Roundtable
Interviews with businesspersons, consultants, and other advisors containing advice on topics of interest to small business owners. Readers may submit their own questions

Business & Entrepreneurialism Calendar
We'll list classes, seminars, conferences, and other events by and for small businesses, including neighborhood fairs and other opportunities for businesspeople to meet directly with the public.

A Money Column
Financial tips and advice geared directly toward the problems and challenges facing small business owners and operators.

A Law Column
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To Advertise in *Small Business Monthly* call 510-879-3700

Upcoming Calendar

In addition, each month's publication will focus on one broad business sector, with a detailed trend story and a profile from within that sector. Here is the upcoming publication calendar:

February (January 27)
Law, Accounting & Professional Services

March (February 24)
Nonprofits

April (March 31)
Environmental Services

May (April 28)
Hospitality & Tourism

June (May 26)
Real Estate & Construction

July (June 30)
Manufacturing

August (July 28)
Education

September (August 25)
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EAST BAY EXPRESS
Surfing Coffee's "Third Wave"

LETTERS

[illegible]

As Good as the Hype

Enjoyed Luke Tsai's article on coffee's third wave hitting the East Bay. I have been making my own espresso drinks with a succession of home machines for almost thirty years because I discovered that with a bit of care and knowledge I could make better coffee with a simple home machine than was at the time available at any cafe in the Bay Area.

I moved to Berkeley 25 years ago and would throw my hands in the air when friends asked me where they could get good espresso drinks in the East Bay. I walked into Local 123 the second day they were open and it was obvious that they were doing everything right. I was unable to drink coffee at the time because of stomach issues, but started the Chowhound thread on the cafe that day, describing the things they were doing that told me this was the East Bay cafe I have been waiting for.

I am now able to drink decaf, have sampled friends' real stuff at 123, and have found it every bit as good as I expected it to be. I haven't made it to SubRosa, Remedy, or Modern Coffee, which I hear is also good, but I have visited Blue Bottle's new Oakland location, where I had the best decaf macchiato I have ever tasted.

To those who say coffee is just coffee and these cafes are nothing but pretense I offer this challenge: Order any coffee drink you want at the Caffe Trieste's San Pablo location, then move yourself a few blocks north and order the same drink at 123. You don't have to be a connoisseur to tell the difference — it will hit you in the face. It's like going from the McDonald's at Shattuck and University then moving yourself a few blocks north to Chez Panisse.

Richard Reynolds, Berkeley

Berkeley High May Cut Its Science Labs
News, 12

As Dire As It Sounds?

Eric Klein's recent article left me shocked and bewildered and I wish he had included more information about the proposal, the reasoning behind it, and ways for locals to get involved. It saddens me beyond what I can express to have science education maligned! Science labs more than any other class give students the opportunity to learn critical thinking skills, to question a premise, and compare it with hard evidence before accepting it. Any way you divide us, Americans often show a dire lack of such thinking skills. The cost to any individual and to society as a whole from eliminating this from public education is truly unsustainable. I hope the *East Bay Express* will cover this further and that the situation is less extreme than it sounds.

Joanna Noble, Berkeley

Lowering the Higher Achieving Students

There have recently been numerous articles about the possible closing of the science labs at Berkeley High School. According to the description of this ridiculous act, in the *East Bay Express* "Berkeley High School is considering a controversial plan to eliminate science labs and the five science teachers who teach them to free up more resources to help struggling students. I had to read that sentence three times before I was able to believe my eyes. Aha! Then I realized what this proposal actually means! By closing the science labs, there will be no access to higher learning for the higher achieving students, therefore, their test scores will be lowered and the gap between the higher and lower achieving students will become much smaller!

Barbara Sayed, Berkeley

[illegible] 12/9

Scientists Lack Common Sense

In his article, Chris Thompson bemoans that Obama's science advisor, John Holdren, is being tarred with his past ideas for social engineering schemes to reduce overpopulation such as introducing sterilization drugs into the water supply. Those infernal right wingers are dredging up the past.

We could discuss a current idea that Holdren brought up in April of this year: that of geo-engineering the climate via shooting pollution particles from airplanes into the atmosphere to reflect the sun to combat global warming. Have you looked at the white streaky mess in the sky lately? Are there not enough pollution particles from jets up there? Could they have already started a program like this? Don't plants and animals need the sun? Couldn't there be unknown consequences to the inhabitants of the earth from the chemical particulates that fall to earth? Maybe scientists of another field, say biology, botany, or entomology might deem this idea unthinkable. I believe a lot of nonscientists would also. If this is not going to be discussed and "politicized" then will the regular people of the world have any say in something that affects us and the natural world so drastically?

If you ask me, there is far too much reverence and trust shown scientists. They are no more moral than other people, and can be corrupted by money, yet they know how to develop technologies that can alter our universe, and can sell it to the highest bidder, and do. The common person is never consulted. Do we want GMO crops? Do we want pesticides? Do we want manmade clouds? Do we want the H.A.A.R.P.? Do we want nuclear weapons? Do we want bio weapons? Do we want land mines? We get 'em baby, thanks to "better living through science."

The left seems to embrace science almost as a knee-jerk reaction to the right wing allying itself with religion. And they seem to have lost all critical faculties in that regard. The Tom Sawyer and Brer Rabbit techniques work every time. If the right wing attacks something, it must be a good thing.

I just get tired of the attitude that we common folk must defer to scientists. For brilliant people they can sure be stupid sometimes. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to have some common sense.

Vivian Warkentin, Berkeley

[illegible] 12/23

Make Way for Pop Culture?

I just read your article on KPFA. In all honesty it seems far too childish of a piece. You mention that there is a 20 percent cut across the board — yet only three individuals affected? — two at Flashpoints and one at Hard Knock Radio programs! I don't think that seems across the board, does it? Enlighten me if I'm wrong.

A second point made by Ms. Swan in her article is that if a program is not garnering the listeners, it should make way for one that would. This sounds fine if it was some television sitcom — they have made their way to "reality" shows — what a joke. Further, just look at mainstream public affairs: all the hard hitting programs have made way for pop culture news where Tiger Woods receives far more attention (therefore more "important") than massacres, wars, and international humanitarian laws that are being violated — many in our name. Is that what we want to see in our alternative media?

I dearly hope not! And I hope you also don't want that to happen at KPFA! Take action to save our station — not merely let it slide down a slippery slope toward pop culture news and public affairs.

In solidarity with real alternative radio pro-

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EAST BAY BIZ LISTINGS

In January the *East Bay Express* is launching a new business publication, *Small Business Monthly*. The section will feature business news and columns, advice for small business owners, and listings of business events and retail sales. To submit press releases, send the pertinent information to editor@eastbayexpress.com. Send retail news to baycurious@eastbayexpress.com. Send businessevents to calendar@eastbayexpress.com

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Why KPFA Lost Listeners

While the economy has doubtless contributed to hard times at KPFA, the content of much of the station's news and public affairs programs are also culpable. Even when the economy was relatively robust during most of the Bush administration's years, when one might believe KPFA would gain support, it lost nearly a third of its listeners.

A significant number of progressives who now tune KPFA out and no longer make donations are members of the Bay Area's Jewish community. *Flashpoints*, for example, has seen audience numbers sink like the proverbial stone, as host Dennis Bernstein, producer Nora Barrows-Friedman, and frequent guest Barbara Lubin have served up a nonstop litany of Israel-bashing that would do Becky O'Malley, the owner/editor of the increasingly little-read *Berkeley Daily Planet*, proud. Can there be little wonder but that the many local Jews on the left have soured on the incessant attacks on Israel by both the *Daily Planet* and KPFA?

When it comes to pleading by Bernstein and Barrows-Friedman that listeners and prominent supporters cease providing financial support for the only station which would air their ideological drivel, it is clear that the leftist circular firing squad is operating in full drive.

Don Spitzer, Berkeley

[illegible] UC Berkeley's Senior Faculty [illegible]

The Streets Are Paved With Unemployed Ph.Ds

The problem of the unemployment of Ph.Ds has been ongoing since the great job market collapse of 1969-1970. I passed my Ph.D exams in 1969. That wasn't the best of timing. By the time I finished my dissertation, the job market "depression" for Ph.Ds had become permanent. So the problem is not new. It goes far beyond the current recession.

Harvey Schwartz, El Cerrito

Corrections

In our December 23 Theater story on the top ten plays of the year, we misspelled the name of *Jack Goes Boating* actor Gabriel Marin.

The December 23 edition of Seven Days, "Oakland's New Voting System," erroneously stated that the clients of Oakland attorney Stuart Flashman included the Sierra Club and the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club. Both clubs, however, concurred with his legal conclusion concerning the City of Oakland's requirement to implement ranked-choice voting in 2010.

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Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

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SEVEN DAYS

DEAD BIRDS RING OUT THE OLD YEAR

Airport-dwelling fowl have a foul December. Plus a new chief at BART, and a reprieve for Oakland truckers

By Chris Thompson

Ah, Xmas. The time when nog is hefted, the Messiah's birth is considered, and dead and mutilated seabirds wash up on the beaches of the Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline. That's what happened on December 23, when horrified hikers discovered some sixty gulls, cormorants, and pelicans bleeding or dead. State Fish and Game officials immediately started digging into who could have committed this deed, and they discovered that employees from the Oakland International Airport were responsible. Seems the birds took a liking to the still waters around the airport runways, and anyone who's followed the career of Danville's Chesley Sullenberger knows what can happen when birds linger near tarmacs. Airport officials tried spooking the critters with tape of scary noise, but the birds stayed put. So with sleighbells ringing in their ears, they opened up with some double-aught and sent them to that Great Roost in the Sky. State officials determined that the airport employees were within their rights to get funky with the flint locks. And so ended the year that began with Oscar Grant.

BART Survives the Grant Anniversary

Speaking of Oscar Grant, the BART system has been casting nets far and wide to find a replacement for police chief Gary Gee, who fell on his sword after the fatal cop killing last New Year's Eve. And the winner is ... retired Berkeley top cop Dash Butler, who retired with a sweeter pension that you'll ever see, but still needs something to do with his free time. This caps a host of measures taken to preserve public safety in the run up to this year's end-of-year party. BART pumped up the police patrols, rescheduled the BART trains to avoid drunken crowds packing into trains and stations, and deployed helpful civilian BART employees to be pleasant and answer any questions shoved their way around midnight. Grant's family even issued a public plea not to start any shit in the name of their deceased relative. It seems to have worked, as no major disorder erupted when 2009 expired.

Oakland's Open for Business Again

New Year's Day also ended the week when Oakland's city government shut down entirely in a desperate effort to save money and cope with its $80 million budget deficit. Yes, every single city employee, from the guys who fix your potholes to the guys who maintain the city's parks, was forced to take the week off without pay. Only the cops, firefighters, and meter maids were still on duty. Even Oakland's libraries were shuttered, prompting one local citizen to utter the following immortal quote in the presence of a *Chronicle* reporter: "Well, this kind of crumbles the deck."

And Oakland's not the only government that has to spread the pain around. Starting on January 1, the Alameda County Social Services Agency began the process of cutting off General Assistance — the cash it dispenses to the poorest of the single, male poor — in a bid to whittle away at its own $11 million deficit. Advocates for the underclass used numerous tactics to delay this move, but they've run out of options. Now, if you're under 64 and deemed mentally and physically capable of doing something in return for a paycheck, you've got three months to find a gig before the spigot runs dry.

Dellums Gets Truckers a Reprieve

Speaking of the unemployed, guess who's not? Some 1,200 truckers who own their own rigs, but couldn't attach diesel fuel filters on their vehicles, that's who. Back in 2007, the state legislature passed a law requiring freight haulers to outfit their machines with emission-reducing equipment by the end of 2009, and gave them $22 million to help them along. The major trucking companies found the money, but thousands of owner-operators around California complained that the disbursement program was confused and dysfunctional, and that they would be unfairly banned from the gates of the Oakland port come January 1. But Ron Dellums saved the day and cut a deal with the truckers and the state. The truckers now have a two-week reprieve to work while they apply for $11 million in state grants to retrofit their rigs. So hey, Mr. Dellums did something right. In fact, the *Oakland Tribune* reported that he "pulled off a New Year's miracle."

Three Dot Roundup

Chevron has endeared itself to everyone once more by deciding not to contest the federal government's claim that it cheated the American public out of $46 million. Officials with the Justice Department accused the oil leviathan of underreporting that amount in royalties from natural gas it extracted on public lands. ... Down in Fresno, a French company has signed a letter of intent to build one or two nuclear power plants. Neither the company nor the Fresno Nuclear Energy Group seemed perturbed by the fact that California law prohibits the construction of new nuke plants until the federal government has in place a program to permanently dispose of the spent fuel. ... The S&P Home Price Index reports that Bay Area homes actually rose 1.2 percent in value between September and October. ... And the national media has gotten hip to the *East Bay Express* report that Berkeley High may cancel AP science labs to fund remedial education. The tech press, such as *Wired*, TechDirt, and prominent biology blogger P.Z. Myers, is outraged. The right wing tabloid press, such as the *Examiner* chain and Town Hall, is smug now that Berkeley has lived down to their expectations. Either way, more heat is gathering under the school board to put this embarrassment behind it. ●

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/7/sevendays

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

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ECO WATCH

SWORDS TO SOLAR PANELS

Local nonprofit introduces young veterans to the world of green technology

By Nate Seltenrich

Brian Inami knew at least ostensibly what being green was all about. Living in San Francisco, he was familiar with the merits of recycling, composting, and turning off the lights when he left a room. Yet all the "green stuff" never quite sank in for him; it was background noise associated with living in an eco-friendly city, and not much more.

Everything changed when the thirty-year-old Marine Corps veteran enrolled in an eight-week course on solar panel installation at Oakland's Laney College. Designed and facilitated by local nonprofit veteran support organization Swords to Plowshares, the course taught the basics of photovoltaic system installation and provided a brief overview of the emerging green industry. Inami enrolled not because he was an environmentalist looking to prove a point, but because he was a hard worker looking for a new career.

"I wanted to get into an emerging industry," Inami recalled. So in mid-August he responded to a job post placed on Craigslist by Swords to Plowshares, which was rounding up Iraq and Afghanistan war vets for the inaugural class of its new green jobs training program. At the time, Inami was living and working in San Diego as an aquatics director for the YMCA, and was ready for a change. That's just what he found.

"The teacher said, 'How can you go into a green industry and not be green?'" said Inami. This time it stuck. "Now I realize, it's gotta be a whole way of life." As a result of the class, he said, he's become receptive to how human behavior can affect the planet.

Newly equipped with a certification from the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners, representing entry-level knowledge of solar panel installation, Inami is prepared to take his training and newfound perspective into the field. He has continuously sent out résumés since the class ended in mid-December and has already had a couple interviews. If a job offer isn't immediately forthcoming, he said, he'll consider volunteering just to earn some critical hands-on experience. Ultimately, he's optimistic: "I see lots of potential growth in the future. I'm looking to build a career."

Swords to Plowshares' green training program was established by a Veterans Workforce Integration Program federal grant providing $500,000 a year for three years. The organization, which was founded in 1974 and has offices in San Francisco and Oakland, was one of only seventeen recipients nationwide. Created under the Obama administration and funded through the US Department of Labor, the Veterans Workforce Integration Program grant requires recipients to put veterans through a green training program that will lead directly to a job in the industry.

"Unless there's a job attached to the training, you're just buying time for unemployment," acknowledged Dave Loper, Swords to Plowshares director of employment and training. So while developing the curriculum this summer he met with members of builders' exchanges through the Bay Area to ensure that the training would meet their needs — and to earn their buy-in on

> "It still is a small field, but growing at a rapid rate. The economy is still the economy ... but I believe there's a job out there for everybody in the class."

Swords to Plowshares trains military veterans for careers in green technology.

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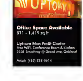
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Some recent graduates of the program

the program. At the conclusion of each course, he joked, he could come back to them and say "You told me to train them on that, so you'd better hire them."

Job placement notwithstanding, Lopez hopes to train eighty local vets in solar panel installation within the program's first year. In addition to Laney, San Jose City College and Diablo Valley College also have partnered with Swords to Plowshares; they, too, will host twenty vets for eight weeks at a time, providing an instructor, a classroom, parking, and textbooks at no cost to the students. San Jose's program begins in January and DVC's in February, while Laney will host a second class in March. All three schools also offer traditional green-career training programs, which were partly condensed to meet Swords to Plowshares' needs.

Within the inaugural Laney class, Insam was older and further removed from military service than many of his classmates. Most were under 28 and had served within the last two years. But he wasn't the only one unfamiliar with green tech was par for the course. And more than half of the twenty students had little or no prior experience with electrical work. In the military, they were infantry, cooks, stockroom workers, and supply-chain specialists.

"A lot of them lack transferable skills," said green project coordinator Anthony Cedeno. "That's the really tough part about it." Swords to Plowshares' training program was designed to remedy that, while providing an auxiliary introduction to environmentally sustainable practices that may have just as profound an effect.

It certainly did for Anthony Marinaccio of Concord, who separated from service as an Air Force fire truck mechanic based in Albuquerque in 2005. At the time, he had no idea what to do and took jobs in car sales and water damage restoration. This past summer, after being out of work for nine months, he responded to Swords to Plowshares' call for vets in hopes of learning a new trade. Now he considers himself a convert to clean technologies and says he's hooked on "going green." His latest discovery: he was made from recycled tires.

A new job has yet to materialize, but Marinaccio fosters high hopes of beginning as a solar panel installer and exploring the green industry from there. "It still is a small field, but growing at a rapid rate," he said. "The economy is still the economy. We still have some time, but I believe there's a job out there for everybody in the class." ●

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NEIGHBORHOOD COMES TOGETHER AROUND NEW MARKET

North Oakland's sprawling Oasis Food Market calls attention to the area's burgeoning cluster of Middle Eastern shops and residents

Emilie Raguso

Co-owner Mohan Sharif and some customers at Oasis Food Market.

Emilie Raguso

There may be no place like home. But for many Bay Area Middle Easterners, a new market just north of downtown Oakland feels a lot like it.

"The smells here remind me of my childhood," said Oaklander Ze'ev Sharone. "It's the aroma of the spices. Driving around, I saw it when it was under construction. When it was open, I came in and said, 'Joy and hallelujah.'"

Sharone, a therapist, was born in Israel. The 61-year-old likes to stock up on Israeli groceries, spicy Turkish salad, and fresh soups from the deli counter. "It's just what I'm used to," he said. "It's not the American version of Middle Eastern food. It's true Middle Eastern food."

Oasis Food Market has it all: an unmatched supply of oils, grains, and canned goods, a mouth-watering eat-in deli offering soups from scratch, juicy shawarma, olives, feta, and a bevy of stuffed vegetables; fresh baked breads and honeyed pastries handcrafted on site; and a full halal butcher shop complete with hanging carcasses in a chilled case. And, of course, there are fresh fruits and vegetables, cheeses, juices, and, somewhat less expectedly, a Western Union counter, post office boxes, household goods, traditional Arab clothing, water pipes, and flavored tobacco.

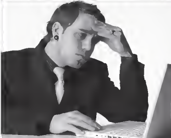
Stepping through the shop's doors feels like stepping into another country. To the left, above heavy rice sacks piled waist-high, a large circular aperture in the sky-blue-colored wall opens into a painted alcove, accented with star-shaped windows and camel figurines, designed for dining and relaxing.

A large banner of Jerusalem featuring Al Aqsa Mosque hangs toward the back of restaurant, not far from a domed skylight the owners installed to add to the ambience.

The blocks surrounding Oasis, which opened on the corner of 30th Street and Telegraph Avenue in August, host a handful of Arab shops: markets and delis, a bookstore, two butchers. Their concentration in this stretch of Telegraph is partially explained by the presence of the Oakland Islamic Center on 31st Street just west of Telegraph, although the earliest businesses say they moved in just because the properties were vacant.

About 7,500 Arabs live in Alameda County, according to the 2008 American Community Survey of the Census Bureau. That's a significant increase from the 4,300 Arabs who were recorded in the area in 1990. The relatively small size of the population and high margin of error in the data make these numbers difficult to rely on, but it's easy to see the Middle Eastern influence when walking near the mosque on any given Friday as afternoon prayers let out.

Men and women in traditional clothing stroll down the street speaking Arabic. They cluster on the corners, some in checkered *kufiya* scarves or small caps, to talk and wish each oth-



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er well. Many have made it a habit after prayers to eat lunch inside Oasis or pick up groceries to prepare at home.

"We feel that this is like back home," said Mohammad Hammad, 44, a Palestinian who lives in San Leandro, as he ate lunch inside the market. "Our culture is Arabic. We feel comfortable because all the Arabic musics are here. And sometimes I'm not hungry but I stop here to see the people. It's like a family."

Hicham Moufid of Hayward came to the United States from Morocco. Moufid insisted on buying a reporter a large portion of lamb and rice so he could talk over a meal. Others tried to share their food or buy tea. "It's how we treat guests," Moufid explained. "Coming here makes Friday very special. We sit down and eat together. We see other people from our own tradition. It's not that easy to be away from home."

Co-owner Mohsin Sharif, 30, who is originally from Yemen, said the lively Arabic shopping district in Dearborn, Michigan, inspired him to open Oasis in the neighborhood.

"In Michigan, there are streets of Arabic shops selling pastries, *halal* meat, shawarma and kabob," he said. "Why not have that here in Northern California?"

Sharif said the corner location is advantageous because of its proximity to the mosque and to Alta Bates Summit Medical Center. He and co-owner Osman Othman, 52, had to knock down thirty doors in the former orthopedic surgeon's office to make room for the store and all its amenities.

The city offered $75,000 to help with renovations, said Christine Lebron of Oakland's Façade and Tenant Improvement Program. That program, which favors businesses that bring needed services to Oakland neighborhoods, aims to eliminate blight, fill vacancies, improve the conditions of buildings, and revitalize the city.

The stretch of Telegraph where Oasis sits is marked by vacant storefronts. The neighborhood falls in an "in between zone," said Kathy Kleinbaum, who also works on development issues for the city. "It's in between downtown and between the MacArthur BART station and Temescal," she said. "The neighborhood hasn't had that much identity. But they're working on that."

To improve conditions and make the strip more of a destination, many local businesses pay taxes into a special fund that goes toward extra security, street cleaning, and other improvement efforts, such as banners or festivals. Darlene Rios Drapkin has run the program since it started in 2008 for the Koreatown/Northgate district, which stretches along Telegraph from 20th to 34th Street.

Bread is baked fresh daily

Gabe Kagaso

She said Oasis is a welcome addition to the community and hopes it will spice up Oakland's already rich culinary scene. "I've not found another Middle Eastern market like it," she said. "The Koreatown/Northgate district is extremely pleased to have such a great store with such wonderful hospitality in the neighborhood. It's an anchor for other new businesses we hope to attract."

Co-owner Othman, who is originally from Palestine, said it was a "big-time risk" to invest in the business given today's economic climate. But he believes the shop's emphasis on fair prices, fresh ingredients, and homemade authentic food will be a winning combination.

"We're targeting American people more than Arabic people," he said. "I want it to be a cultural experience coming here."

Othman hopes to win customers one sweet tooth at a time, with an unparalleled selection of Arabic pastries baked in-house daily: Ghorayebeh cookies similar to sand tarts, mahmoul cookies from Lebanon and Syria, *knafeh* pastries, like honeyed bird's nests, dotted with cashew and pistachio, and half a dozen varieties of baklava. A Syrian baker whose family has been in the pastry business for generations runs the operation.

Another baker churns out pita bread by the dozens, rolling the fluffy rounds out by hand

and firing them in a large oven. Customers often leave the shop with half a dozen bags, a sure sign of the bread's popularity. Other breads, Ethiopian injera and Afghani naan, are also available. Plans are in the works for Iraqi bread, too, the owners said.

A Turkish chef prepares handmade grape leaves, stuffed cabbage, and zucchini, and eggplant pickles packed with nuts and spices. Behind the case, shawarma turns on a skewer dripping with fat and flavor.

Othman promises his prices can't be beat. Bulk olives at $3.99 per pound. Any kind of boxed cereal, $2.99. Bulk almonds, $2.99 a pound. Organic honey, 17 ounces, $4.99. He guarantees low prices for his canned goods, challenging customers to find better deals elsewhere. And African products: flours and grains from Ethiopia, including huge sacks of Teff ($48.99 for a 25-pound bag), also have a promi-

nent place in the shop because of the large concentration of Ethiopians who live nearby.

Other Middle Eastern merchants nearby said that although they initially feared Oasis would cut into their business, the shop has actually been a boon. Ali Mugaess runs Zahara Deli & Coffee two blocks north of Oasis. He opened in November 2008.

"I thought, 'Oh, this guy is going to open and kill my business.' But it's brought me more customers," he said. Mugaess, 42, who is originally from Yemen but lives in San Leandro, said the new businesses have made the area cleaner and safer. "Before we opened, this part of Telegraph used to be a dead zone. You could not even walk here after six o'clock."

Mugaess recalls seeing homeless people sleeping in the street or peeing in nearby doorways, drug dealers circling the blocks at all hours. "Now, you walk at 6 o'clock, it's a live street, a clean street. Neighbors come and say, 'Thank you for opening a store here,'" he said.

Sara Ahmed, 22, is one such happy neighbor. On a recent Friday evening, Ahmed walked home with her husband as he pushed their one-year-old son in a stroller down the street. The couple has lived in the neighborhood for seven years; they are members of the Oakland Islamic Center. The homemaker said she loves being able to walk to stores that steer clear of pork and offer *halal* meat and traditional cheese.

"We see more of our people around. It feels safer because there are more people," she said. "There are more Muslims, more of all races. People of all races are walking at night. It's really everything we need just right here." ●

Oasis Food Market, 3045 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland. 510-655-5111

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Ka-Yao Ti teaches her students at Berkeley's Shu Ren International School

Hai McGrath

Learning In Chinese

Mandarin immersion takes root in Bay Area schools. By Luke Tsai

On a crisp December afternoon at Berkeley's Shu Ren International School, eleven squirming five-year-olds are sprawled out on the rug. Kai Yao Ti's kindergarten classroom looks much like any other kindergarten room — bright, cheerful colors, student art masterpieces in Crayola and felt-tip marker, and an easel where the day's itinerary is written on chart paper. What sets this classroom apart isn't especially subtle: Just about everything is written in Chinese, from the morning greeting that *Kai Laoshi* ("Teacher Kai") has written out for the students to read aloud together, to the labels underneath pictures of a dreidel and a menorah on the whiteboard. Even at the height of the holiday season, there probably aren't too many other kindergarten classes learning about Hanukkah and Kwanzaa in Mandarin.

Shu Ren, founded in the fall of 2008, is the latest in a growing number of Mandarin bilingual schools that have cropped up in the Bay Area. Here in the East Bay, these include the Pacific Rim International School, a Montessori-based independent school in Emeryville; Stonebrae Elementary School, part of the Hayward Unified School District; and Shu Ren, whose 41 students currently range from pre-K to second grade, although the school plans to expand by one grade each year until it runs through the eighth grade. Most of the programs follow some variation of the "dual language" immersion model, which at the elementary school level usually entails students spending at least 50 percent of their day not simply learning a second language, but rather learning in and completely immersed in that language.

In the East Bay, there's a well-established French immersion school and several Spanish language immersion schools, and there is every indication that overall interest in foreign languages among Americans is higher than ever — no doubt a response to the increasingly globalized world in which we live. But the rising popularity of Mandarin immersion programs is particularly telling, in that much of the interest stems from China's ever-increasing economic clout and prominence on the world stage. Indeed, there has been a sense, for many years now, that China is the future, and this has caused parents — Chinese and non-Chinese alike — to plan for their children's education with an eye on the world's 1.3-billion some-odd Mandarin speakers.

Jie Moore decided to start a school when her own daughter wouldn't speak to her in Mandarin

Hai McGrath

Even the federal government has jumped on the bandwagon, providing resources to further the teaching and learning of Chinese — along with Arabic, Hindi, and other "strategically important" languages — through its so-called STARTALK programs, which are funded by the National Security Language Initiative.

Here in Berkeley, Stella Kwoh is the director of the National Center for K-16 Chinese Language Pedagogy, which for more than a year now has been using STARTALK funds to create resources to train and support Chinese language teachers. When Kwoh first got involved in teacher training more than twenty years ago, Mandarin education wasn't especially popular in the United States — it was "in the freezer," she jokes. "But now," she said, "it's getting better and better."

While the administrators and others involved with Shu Ren acknowledge China's emergence as one of the school's major selling points, none are so crass as to place too much emphasis on the financial benefits of learning Mandarin — the idea, say, that there will be some quantifiable future payoff, measured out in Chinese yuan, for the $12,000-plus tuition parents are now paying each year. Instead, parents and teachers are much more likely to talk about the importance of multiculturalism or the cognitive benefits of learning about other people and other languages. The Chinese parents, in particular, talk about seeking ways to pass their cultural and linguistic heritage on to their own children.

In fact, Shu Ren's founder and head, Jie Moore, concedes that one of the reasons she decided to start a new school in the first place was because she was having trouble finding a suitable preschool for her own daughter, Maya, to attend. Moore grew up in China, but her husband is from New Zealand and doesn't speak Chinese at all. They agreed that they wanted their child to be bilingual but, unable to find a school in the area that offered as much of a Mandarin focus as she wanted, Moore ended up sending Maya to a regular Montessori preschool. Very quickly, Moore says, her daughter was basically no longer willing to speak Chinese.

Moore recalls, "One day I got really frustrated and I said, 'You should speak Chinese to me. Why do you always answer back in English?' And she said, 'Mommy, I don't know how!'"

For Moore, this served as a wake-up call with respect to the challenges inherent in trying to raise a bilingual child in the United States. "How could I expect her to speak Chinese when she never heard the words?" Moore said. "You know, during the day, all she hears is English. So that's when I said she has to be in an immersion school."

It was around this time that Moore started thinking about starting a school of her own, although she was no educator by her own admission. Her background was in sociology. She had never taught, and had no prior experience running a school.

But after receiving encouragement from Anne-Marie Pierce, an educational consultant who has worked with a Spanish immersion school in Oakland and a number of other international schools, Moore decided to give it

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a shot. In consultation with Pierce, Moore decided to base her school's curriculum on the International Baccalaureate model, in addition to the overarching Mandarin immersion framework.

What that model offers is a student-centered, hands-on approach to teaching. At the elementary school and pre-elementary school level — what the International Baccalaureate foundation calls its Primary Years Program — the curriculum focuses on "inquiries" that the students will make into various themes, actively asking questions and finding the answers to those questions themselves. What also appealed to Moore about the International Baccalaureate curriculum is, as she explained, its emphasis on teaching "how to understand other people, people from different cultural and language backgrounds, and have genuine communication with those people."

In that respect, she felt it was a perfect fit with the Mandarin language component.

Back in the kindergarten classroom, the students gathered on the rug are ready for their afternoon class — in this case an impromptu mini lesson in math.

"How many more people do we have in our classroom now?" Kai Laoshi asks the children in Mandarin.

"Xiao zhang," one little boy ventures — the principal.

"Yes, the principal. That's one person. Who else?"

Eventually the students decide that there are now fifteen people in the classroom, and the teacher leads them in counting — in Mandarin, of course. The kids have their Chinese counting down pat; they're regular champs at it, going right up to fifteen without missing a beat.

At this point, Kai Laoshi takes out a basket of little plastic linking blocks and asks if any of the students can show her, using the blocks, how many more people they now have in the classroom. And on it goes from there.

The lesson typifies the way the school deals with the Chinese language component — not as a stand-alone academic subject but rather as something that's integrated into their overall school experience. They're not simply learning Chinese — they're learning math in Chinese, or social studies in Chinese.

This is a totally different approach than the one used when Chinese is taught as a foreign language, as has become increasingly common in Bay Area schools. It also differs from the way that Chinese is taught as a "heritage language" — to those who already have some ethnic or cultural connection to Chinese — at the widespread weekend Chinese schools that many adult Chinese Americans still have unpleasant memories of attending when they were growing up. Aside from the limitation of only having a half a day on a Saturday or Sunday, these weekend Chinese schools have tended to be slanted toward more old-fashioned teaching methods favored when the instructors themselves were in school in China or Taiwan — copying a list of characters twenty times, or learning a classical Chinese poem through rote memorization.

You won't find that kind of pedantic approach to teaching Chinese at Shu Ren. In fact, you won't find much direct language instruction at all.

"It's language used in an authentic environment," Moore said. "That's what I think is the advantage of an immersion school as opposed to a weekend school or even an after-school program."

The effect — the sense that students truly are immersed in the Chinese language — is amplified at Shu Ren, where the model is more extreme than many of the area's other immersion schools. At the kindergarten level, students spend an average of just an hour a day being instructed in English by a separate teacher. The rest of the time is devoted to Chinese. The pre-K class is actually 100-percent Mandarin, and more English time is added as the students advance through the grades, with a 50/50 split being reached by the third grade.

Some students are the children of Chinese-American parents who wish to pass on their language. [illegible]

The approach is borne out by research which shows that immersing students in a language as much possible when they are young is the key to cementing their success — and also that kids at that early age can pick up a language much more quickly than adults. Anecdotally, Moore estimates that it takes only about three or four months at the school for a child with no Mandarin background to start being able to understand most of what the Chinese teacher is saying in class, assuming that he or she starts in kindergarten or pre-K.

That said, to an outsider it still might seem a bit crazy to plunge a kid into this environment where he's suddenly going to have to be listening to a foreign language for six or seven hours a day. By Kai-Yao Tu's count, about 80 percent of her students come from families where no Chinese is spoken at home.

In watching Tu interact with her students, it is striking to note how infrequently she speaks in English — maybe one or two individual words over the course of an entire hour. After the math lesson is over, she tells the story of "The Nutcracker" — an elaborate setup, complete with little stick puppets, that holds the kids spellbound for longer than you'd think would be possible with a group of energetic five-year-olds. Again, no English — not even for advanced vocabulary like "nutcracker" and "magician" — but with all the props and everything else, the students are able to follow along.

It is worth mentioning, too, that most of the kids aren't able to speak in Mandarin the whole time — in fact, many of them seem to lack the vocabulary to really express themselves in the language, aside from set routines like counting that they've practiced many times. Part of Tu's technique is to ask questions like, "Do you know who this is?" and when a student responds, "The nutcracker," she'll say "Right!" and repeat the word again in Chinese.

Anyone who's studied Mandarin knows that one of the most challenging things about the language is that it's tonal. A single word like "ma" pronounced with different stresses and intonations might mean variously "horse" or "mother" or "scold." If you try to learn the language as an adult, it's likely that you'll spend a disproportionate amount of time trying to get those tones exactly right — and, chances are, you never will.

What's interesting about the language instruction at Shu Ren is that the students are never directly taught these tones. They're just expected to pick them up the same way, one supposes, that an infant in China would pick them up. In fact, Tu never once corrects her students for the way they pronounce a word in Mandarin — never tells them that the way they've said it is wrong. Instead, she'll just repeat the word, pronouncing it correctly.

Kai-Yao Tu uses plastic linking blocks to teach a math lesson in Mandarin.

Hali Meltzer

Perhaps the most impressive thing about the students at Shu Ren? Even though not all of them can say a whole lot yet in Mandarin, the words they do say are — by and large — spoken with near-impeccable pronunciation.

Another thing that's striking about Shu Ren is the particular demographic that the school attracts. Looking around Kai-Yao Tu's kindergarten classroom, one of the first things you'll notice is that there is a disproportionate number of biracial children, most of whom have one parent who is ethnically Chinese. There are a handful of Chinese children. And then there are a few who don't seem to have any obvious connection to Chinese, a couple of Caucasian kids and one African American.

As mentioned, for many of the biracial and Chinese families who send their children to the school, there's a desire to maintain and build upon any Mandarin their kids might already be getting at home. Such is the case for Lishan Zhao, whose daughter Melanie is in the kindergarten class. Zhao and his wife are both from China, and it was particularly important to them that their daughter be able to read and write the language.

"We just don't have the time or ... the system that we can teach her," Zhao explained.

Tu estimates that by the end of kindergarten, her students will be able to read and write about fifty Chinese characters.

Sophie Beach's son, Luca, also is in the kindergarten class. Beach's husband is Chinese, and so they too had a desire for their son to be able to become fully bilingual. Thus far, Beach said, it's been a great success. Before he started preschool, Luca could speak Chinese but really didn't feel comfortable doing so in new situations.

"After he started at Shu Ren — it was only a couple of months after — it was almost like Chinese became his more comfortable language," Beach said. "He was much more comfortable speaking it in all different types of situations."

A few students are children from China whose adoptive parents want their child to grow up with some sense of connection to their native tongue. Such is the case for Jacky Carleton, whose daughter Liliane was adopted from China when she was one year old.

Carleton, who doesn't speak any Mandarin herself, said, "It's a very, very beautiful, very, very complicated language, and if at some point she were to want to master the language, we'd certainly want to make that opportunity available for her."

Perhaps most interesting of all are those families who have decided to send their children to Shu Ren despite having no obvious connection to Chinese themselves. Jason Mitchell's children — his son Jaylen in the kindergarten and his daughter Jayla in pre-K — are two among a handful of African American students who attend Shu Ren. According to Mitchell, sending one's kids to a Mandarin immersion school is simply unheard of in the African American community. Many of his friends and family members responded to his decision with a mixture of surprise and skepticism, wondering how, in fact, his kids would ever be able to learn anything in that kind of environment.

"I'm not the trend. I'm bucking the trend," Mitchell said. "We're maybe one out of a thousand families even thinking about doing this, if the percentage is even that high."

Ultimately, for Mitchell the decision boiled down to his own interest in the Chinese language and culture — both he and his wife have started taking lessons, and he even has plans to maybe someday move to China to pursue business opportunities — as well as a desire to foster a global worldview in his children. "I'm a big believer that the world is larger than Oakland, or the East Bay, or California, or the United States," Mitchell said. "They need to know that and be able to communicate to people."

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For the kids themselves, it hasn't necessarily been an easy transition. Jaylen, in particular, went from being one of the brightest kids in an all African-American preschool to suddenly this past September being in an environment where not only did everyone look different, but where he also literally couldn't understand anything that was being said. Mitchell recalls that there was a period of real struggle, when Jaylen would act out in class and come home saying that he felt "dumb."

But after the family put in a lot of work with the teachers and the administrators at the school, Jaylen began to make progress. The turning point came a couple months into the school year at a family gathering, where Jaylen counted to twenty in Mandarin in front of all his cousins and aunts and uncles.

"They were all ecstatic, like they couldn't believe it," Mitchell said. "And I think that gave him the confidence that [he] could do it. I've got some kind of special gift, I think is what he said."

Now Jaylen is interested in learning Chinese — he wants to understand everything that's being said in class. His teacher, Kai Lasulu, even cites Jaylen as one of her great success stories so far this year.

"Now he speaks. He can let me know he wants to drink water. He knows when I'm asking him to go get something, like 'Can you go get the scissors?' Or 'Can you go get the pencil for your teammates?' But pretty much he already understands."

It's possible that Shu Ren would have never come to be had it not been for the pioneers who started the Chinese American International School in San Francisco in 1981, which is believed to be the first Mandarin immersion program anywhere in the country. And those who hope for Shu Ren's long-term success may be comforted to look at this one shining example across the bay, which started with a handful of students in the basement of a French American school and has now reached the point where, according to the Interim Head of School Betty Shon, there are "waiting lists of 60 to 80 people for the pre-K spots, and people come to open house with the kids in utero." In the one kindergarten classroom this reporter had the chance to observe, the fluency of the Chinese being spoken by the kids seemed nothing short of miraculous.

In its early days, though, the school's founders faced a lot of the same challenges now facing Shu Ren — and even more so, since there was no frame of reference. The biggest question, said Shon, was, "Who on earth would send their kids to a school like that?"

Up until about ten years ago, her answer was simply "Visionary parents."

Part of the problem was a matter of marketing. There was a misconception, Shon said, that the Chinese American International School was intended to be a place to teach *English* to immigrant children, and so people were shocked to discover that there were actually non-Chinese students attending the school.

Similar misconceptions still persist, and can be particularly challenging for a school like Shu Ren that's just getting off the ground. For example, Moore said that Shu Ren has actually had a difficult time retaining the families who are native Mandarin speakers, many of whom are more worried about their children falling behind in English than they are about the Chinese. This is the case even despite research indicating that students who are given a bilingual education will eventually match, and even

In the younger grades, more than 50 percent of all interaction is in Mandarin

Rob McGram

surpass, the monolingual students in terms of English literacy skills.

Indeed, Lisa Jean Cohen, the English teacher at Shu Ren, has taught in public schools and is very familiar with various California state standards. Even with only one hour of English a day, when she tested the kindergarten students at the end of last year, she said they were all at or above grade level in terms of their English.

Even at the Chinese American International School, Shon concedes that part of the reason her school has a more conservative 90/10 immersion model in the lower grades is as a capitulation to parents who "needlessly" — in her view — worry about their children's English.

Another challenge for both Moore and Shon is the difficulty of finding qualified Chinese teachers. It's hard enough to find good teachers to begin with, but when the pool of people you have to pull from has to also be fluent in Mandarin, that makes things that much more daunting. Most of the teachers at both Shu Ren and the Chinese American International School were educated overseas, usually in China or Taiwan, and many had some kind of teaching experience there. What many of them do not have, however, are California teaching credentials. And while, as private schools, that's something that Shu Ren and the Chinese American International School can work around, the lack of a systematic way to train Chinese teachers in this country is clearly a big issue.

The Chinese American International School has dealt with this by trying to develop as many of their teachers as they can in house — by taking the people they hire, whether locally or overseas, and having them apprentice at a teacher's side before they can have a classroom of their own.

Stella Kwoh offers another solution. In addition to her work with STARTALK, Kwoh runs the oldest and probably the most in-depth certificate program for Chinese teachers in California, based at Cal State East Bay. Shu Ren kindergarten instructor Kai Yan Tu actually completed this so-called "Certificate in Teaching Chinese as a Heritage or Other Language." According to Kwoh, a separate CSU East Bay credential program also allows teachers to get their California teaching license if they need it.

But the certificate program is more comprehensive in terms of dealing specifically with the Chinese, addressing such topics as linguistics, cross-cultural communication and second language acquisition, as well as specific teaching methodology.

Schools like Shu Ren are particularly close to Kwoh's heart. As an expert in bilingual education, she has long believed that immersion is the most effective model for teaching Chinese. But part of why she puts so much emphasis on teacher training, along with the schools having a systematic and well thought-out model, is because consequences of doing Mandarin immersion wrong could be disastrous.

"If you do it inadequately, you may lead the kids to be semi-lingual in both languages. It's kind of dangerous if you don't do it right," she said. "But yes, immersion is the future trend."

Shu Ren takes its name from a Chinese idiom that loosely translated says that it takes ten years to cultivate a tree ("shu"), but a hundred years to cultivate a person ("ren"). The name embodies the school's approach to nurturing its students over the long haul and hints, too, at the need for patience on the part of the parents and other observers.

For her part, Moore is a realist — she's not one of those school principals eager to point out how their school is so much better than everyone else's. She doesn't claim that the students at Shu Ren necessarily have better English than the kids going to a regular public school. She doesn't claim that by the end of eighth grade graduates of her school will miraculously be able to read and write in Chinese as well as eighth graders in China (a fifth-grade level is a more realistic goal, she says).

But what's evident, from talking to Moore, is that she really does believe in this school — and that those "visionary parents" who have sent their kids here believe in it, too. And sitting in a pre-K classroom, watching the three- and four-year-olds singing their little holiday songs in Mandarin, squeaky voices and all, let's just say it's awfully hard to feel too cynical. ●

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What's Driving California's Demand for Higher Education?

Even as tuition and fees rise and classes and staff are cut, the number of college applicants in California keeps rising. But why? And at what cost?

By Megan Geuss

From everything we've heard from the rooftops, 2009 left California's higher education in a sorry state. Fees rose, course offerings shrunk, staff and faculty were laid off, and class sizes were cut. There were revolutions at the UC campuses, earthquakes at state schools, and desperate pleas from overburdened community colleges. But despite the unadulterated fury demonstrated by students and faculty, one staggering fact complicates the higher education debate — students are applying to California colleges and universities at record levels.

Without finding the proper explanations for this situation a student in Econ 101 might suggest that this means that college tuition isn't yet *high enough*. Until tuition and fees reach the level at which applications for admission reach a plateau, it could be argued that California's colleges and universities are making a poor business choice by working to keep the cost of education down. But, of course, public and even private schools have a more important mission than simply making money, and whether or not market forces determine the future of higher education in California, the massive number of applicants will certainly change some things about college education.

At public universities, one explanation for this increase in applicants comes from out-of-state and international students. The University of California system has angered many California residents for suggesting that it might increase its quota of out-of-state and international students so that it can charge the correspondingly higher tuition and fees paid by such students. International students are applying in droves to the world renowned university system, whether directly in response to more outreach or simply due to greater global affluence. Between 2007 and 2009, applications from international students increased 57.4 percent, versus a 15.2 percent increase from out-of-state students and an 11.4 percent increase from California residents. But it's easy to get lost in such percentages. Those increases reflect 10,838 more applicants from California but only 3,278 more international applicants and 1,592 out-of-state students. In fact, the year-to-year increases in applicants to UC schools are consistently several points greater than the corresponding increase in state population growth from one generation prior.

And as the UC system contemplates going more international, the Cal State system is considering going more local. The CSU system also experienced a record number of applications this year, forcing eighteen of the twenty three campuses to close their deadline on the night of November 30, which is usually just a soft date for applicants who see that school as a priority.

Another explanation for the application boom is that California students seem to be hedging their bets by applying to several campuses instead of just the one or the two nearest their hometown. Linda Christman, executive director of enrollment at CSU East Bay, believes the increases are due in part to the fact that, "over the last few years we've had a very large high school graduating class." But while numbers from the California Department of Education do indeed suggest steady growth in the population of high school graduates, the number of students qualified to enter the UC or CSU systems has only grown by about 1,000 students per year. Thus, it appears that the average qualified student is sending out more applications than in years past.

To cut down on this flood of applications from students who won't ultimately end up attending their university, many state schools have decided to focus on admitting more local students in favor of those from outside the county. "Alameda and Contra Costa County are our number one priority," Christman said.

Yet another reason for the applicant spike could be that more-specialized education is becoming a necessity in today's job market, even for people who already have a college degree. At private Mills College in Oakland, which serves women at the undergraduate level but is co-ed at the graduate level, Undergraduate Dean of Admissions Giulietta Aquino and Graduate Dean of Admissions Carol Langlois have both seen a record increase in applications. Aquino said that around 25 percent of her undergraduate students are "resumers," or students who are starting or returning to college education after the age of 23. "More students are applying as second-degree candidates," she said. "Either the job market has changed or they're just interested in pursuing a different field." Specifically, these "second timers" could be distorting historical demand patterns for higher education, helping to fuel the "high-tuition, high-demand" conundrum.

> The CSU system also experienced record enrollment applications, forcing most campuses to close their deadline on November 30.

These enrollment trends might even change the game for community colleges. A few weeks

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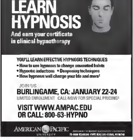
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age San Diego Assemblyman Marty Block made news by suggesting that community colleges be equipped to grant Bachelor of Arts degrees in some fields to help students who can't get into four-year schools finish their degrees. Whether or not the idea comes to fruition, the underlying assumption behind Block's proposal is that there's not enough educational infrastructure to go around for Californians.

But despite the scarcity of educational infrastructure, California could perversely benefit in some ways from tuition increases if no more classes are cut. If second-degree "resumers" are taking spots from first time students, they will coincidentally be bolstering the state's educational capital, raising the state's educational and economic versatility beyond that of previous generations of students. Higher tuitions might also drive students toward more professional degrees in order to pay off their massive loans, prompting a similar type of demographic shift in the makeup of the state's labor market.

Langlois of Mills said she has noticed that today's grad students are "much more savvy, much more interested in cross-disciplinary studies" in order to pay off college debt and to market themselves to find a job after school. For instance, she said the grad students who apply to Mills often want to include technological training in their education, and even creative writing grad students are gravitating more toward a new department called "book art and creative writing," which teaches students how to make books as well as write them. Students who look for diversity in their studies and become more technical in their abilities potentially have more success in a job market.

Higher tuitions might drive students toward more professional degrees to pay off their massive loans, prompting a demographic shift in the labor market

However, these economic and enrollment trends will also harm the state in obvious ways. Students acquiring more debt will be at a long-term disadvantage compared to their more affluent peers, thus widening the gap between the wealthy and the middle and lower classes. Also, if more students rely on financial aid, that need will inevitably increase the financial pressure on the state, causing cuts in the future.

For that reason, economist Stephen Levy of the Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy doesn't see much silver lining to the present situation. At least for public colleges, he doubts that higher tuition will drive students toward more technical degrees because classes are being cut at the same time as tuition is going up, thus making it harder to complete degrees in fields like nursing or engineering in the typical timeframe. "I don't think it's a tuition problem. I think it's a general budgetary problem," Levy said. "They're lowering admission levels and cutting classes." Rather than attracting the wealthy or upwardly mobile into California's higher education system, Levy believes the state is hobbling its future growth by making it harder for students to become skilled professionals. ●

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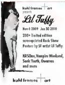
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CULTURE SPY

BIG FAT PASTRY VENTURE

The online serial *Copy & Pastry* follows two men whose ambitions outpace their resources.

By Rachel Swan

It seemed ingenious: Two guys, one oven, several cookie tins, a couple business plan mockups, and the unerring conviction that no city bureaucrat could resist a bribe of chocolate eclairs. Unfortunately, young impresarios Scott McCabe and Tory Stanton had no way to anticipate the utter complexity of launching a pastry business in Berkeley. First off, they had to win over Ms. Patty Plumbopple, the red-haired tart in charge of city permits. That meant walking into her office, complimenting the lewd drawings on her wall (supposedly made by a precocious child), and agreeing to pose nude for an art class. Second, they had to secure financial backing. That meant donating blood, cutting deals with their landlord, trying to gigolo a local investment firm, and eventually recruiting an intern. All that was only the beginning of a whole concatenation of horribles: health department inspections, petty fights, bouts with obnoxious customers, misuse of weed butter, a turf war with a local pizzeria, and a slew of incestuous relationships. The whole thing would make for a perfect TV show.

Or a web show, thought the real McCabe and Stanton. They dreamed up the name *Copy & Pastry* late one night in February, over an order of cookies from Mrs. Munchies, a local delivery service that could easily be *Copy & Pastry*'s real life counterpart. The premise came shortly thereafter: Tory and Scott were roommates. They were broke. They had rudimentary knowledge of home economics but didn't know how to draft a business plan. It fit so well that Scott and Tory (both filmmakers in real life (but not roommates, just close friends)) wanted to create the show right away. They had never used the web as a medium, McCabe said, but they liked the fact that it lacked gatekeepers. "We didn't have to pitch to a network or anything, we could just put it up ourselves," he said. "You have to hustle and try to find an audience for it, but the opportunity's there at least."

Writing for the web was a hard shift for McCabe and Stanton, who are accustomed to longer, involved stories with character development and multiple locations. A typical web video is different. It takes place in someone's living room, usually involves two characters, and ends with a snappy punchline. "Four minutes is the standard," said McCabe. "The assumption is that people are willing to give that much time." Despite these limitations, the form has become increasingly popular — to the extent that companies such as CBS and Sony are producing their own web content. People are building whole careers just by making two-minute videos and slapping them up on YouTube. Call it a populist alternative to old media power structures. Web shows have low overhead and low production values. The goal is not to get "picked up," but to "go viral."

Before launching *Copy & Pastry*, McCabe and Stanton spent several months researching other web shows to see what worked. They realized that scripts had to be short and pithy, with some kind of payoff at the end. (You have your two guys, then some kind of complication, then a quick resolution.) McCabe and Stanton understood the logic of the form and tried to replicate it. But ultimately, they were incapable of thinking in miniature. "We wanted something that had a plausible fictional universe," McCabe explained. "It didn't just exist in the living room of some apartment."

Granted, the opening scene of *Copy & Pastry* does indeed take place in the living room of some apartment. In the first shot we see dimpled, 24-year-old Stanton gluing Skittles on a piece of paper to make a Braille restroom sign. He and McCabe are preparing for a crew of "blind" taste testers. Then we're transported to the Berkeley city permits office, where the fictional Ms. Plumbopple (Rana Weber) holds court with a bottle of Captain Morgan's rum. From there, the fictional universe expands. Over the course of seven episodes Stanton and McCabe would shoot scenes at Virginia Bakery, Local 123 Café, Willard Middle School, Freight & Salvage, Crazy Copy, a church parking lot, and a taqueria that abuts a solar carwash. Unwilling to limit themselves, they wrote scenes that required complex lighting, lots of extras, and elaborate set pieces. They hired Oakland filmmaker Joel Pincosy to direct the project, and he turned it into a mini movie of sorts. He took up to three days to shoot an episode, and use dollies to capture whole scenes in a single tracking shot.

Scott McCabe and Tory Stanton.

Even Pincosy was surprised by the scope of Stanton and McCabe's ambition. Their intent was always to start off screwball and gradually get more involved, he said, "so there would be an arc to the story rather than episode by episode." Initially, all the humor revolved around one central theme: hubris, specifically the misguided optimism of two slackers whose aims far outpace their resources. That comes to bear in the second episode, when Scott and Tory discuss their business plan while listening to a news broadcast about the banking crisis. Later, they pitch their idea to some investors, get rebuffed, then set up an online delivery service that seems promising but for the fact that neither knows how to use Google Maps.

But as the show progresses, so does the storyline. Intern Penelope Nicholls (played by Cali Maggio) gets hired to deliver orders on a two-wheeler and ultimately becomes Tory's love interest. Celebrity chef Lesley Landon (played by David Weese) introduces Scott and Tory to "the Hungarian Devil Stick" — which, according to him, is a Mount Everest of pastries. The producers also indulged their passion for surreal artistry. In episode four they had Nicholls do a song-and-dance number on a city bus. Stanton and McCabe wrote the scene without knowing how they would film it, then started cold-calling local transit agencies. Ultimately they cajoled WestCAT in Contra Costa to donate a bus (and driver) from a line that didn't get many passengers. In episode five, Scott and Tory hawk pastries in a church parking lot, while a circus passes behind them. (Their first draft of that scene involved an elephant, but they eventually settled for a llama.) By the time episode seven rolls around, financial woes have put a strain on Tory and Scott's relationship. Penelope Nicholls has absconded. Scott has designs on hosting his own culinary show on the public access channel. You realize that *Copy & Pastry* isn't just a show about running a pastry business. It's actually a bromance.

At this point, though, it's still a bromance in search of an audience. "It needs that imprimatur of something that's been vetted, you know?" said McCabe. "Otherwise it's just another — something." They publicized the show on Facebook and Twitter but also went the old-fashioned way by courting local periodicals. (The producers' reverence for old-school journalism manifests in episode six, when *Copy & Pastry* gets "discovered" by a newspaper called *Your Daily Berkeley* — circulation: 12.) With a couple thousand page views thus far, they appear to have broken out of the "friends and family" circle. But that hasn't translated into paper returns. Pincosy — who, like the rest of the crew, donated his services pro bono — said he would consider shooting more episodes if they could recruit some type of sponsor. Web shows are an ungainly business, he said, since no one yet knows how to make money off of them. But it sure beats the pastry racket. ●

Find Copy & Pastry at CopyPastry.com

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Brian Regan

Reganite Humor

Brian Regan can slay a room without using four-letter words.

Most comedians work blue, not necessarily because they lack morality, but because it's easier to get a laugh that way. Going the other route is like trying to write words without vowels — it's possible, but taxing on the brain. Still, the best humorists can figure out how to do it. The trick, apparently, is to take things from everyday life and look at them sideways. It requires a mind that can leap instantly from the banal to the bizarre. Florida-born comedian **Brian Regan** specializes in "clean" stand-up with jokes that range from social gaffes at dinner parties to frustrations with UPS. In one bit about foods and labels he points to what could be a cranberry monopoly: "I don't know what's going on with cranberries, but they're getting in all the other juices."

It takes a shrewd mind to peruse the juice aisle in a supermarket and find a metaphor for laissez-faire economics. But Regan doesn't usually look for symbols in things he just stumbles upon them. In fact, he said, it's easier to be funny when you leave your ego behind. (Jokes are never quite as good when they start on a legal pad.) Regan learned that early on, as the fourth of eight funny children. At his home dinner table, humor was more about delivery than anything else. "Everyone in my family is funny," Regan assured in a recent phone interview. "My oldest brother Mike is one of the funniest people I know. ... You could ask him a yes or no question, it wouldn't matter if he said 'yes' or 'no,' you would think it was funny."

That environment didn't exactly foster feelings of specialness, and it took Regan a long time to realize his own natural talent. He matriculated at Ohio's Heidelberg College to study accounting but wound up majoring in theater and playing on the school's football team. Four years spent oscillating between the jock crowd and the drama crowd taught Regan that he could entertain just about anyone. He would josh other football players on their way to the lunchroom and they would ask how his mind worked. Regan ultimately found favor with an acting coach who convinced him to quit the sport for good — not to pursue a career on Broadway, but to host shows at the Comic Strip in South Florida while working as a dishwasher. It turned out to be an auspicious decision. Three decades later, he's become a prominent practitioner of absurdist, common-man humor. All without resorting to potty jokes. Brian Regan performs Friday, January 8, at **Zellerbach Hall** (UC Berkeley). 8 p.m. $38.50. BrianRegan.com

— *Rachel Swan*

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ATTRACTIONS

The Butterfly Garden Is Open Join Joe Studholme to wander the peaceful park's ways, watch hummingbirds and butterflies, and learn about butterfly gardening. Second Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Coyote Hills Regional Park, 8000 Patterson Ranch Rd., Fremont. 510-795-9385. EBParks.org.

Oakland Artisan Marketplace Featuring handmade jewelry, sculptures, ceramics, accessories, photography, dolls, soaps, clothing, floral arrangements, greeting cards, and more. Info: 510-238-4920. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, at 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland.

Redwood Valley Railway Twelve-minute scenic journey by steam train through the redwoods in Tilden Regional Park. Info: 510-548-6100. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., $2 per ticket, or 5 tickets for $8. Tilden Regional Park, entrances off Wildcat Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. [illegible]

University of California Botanical Garden See plants you won't find anywhere else — more than 13,000 varieties, at last. Free docent tours Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 1:30 p.m.; open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission on the first Thursday of every month. Daily. UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.berkeley.edu.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FUND-RAISERS

Berber/Amazigh New Year Celebration With performances by Moh Alileche and Ecilia Mokhtari, plus special guests. For info, visit [illegible]. Sat., Jan. 9, 7-11 p.m., $10. Art House Gallery & Cultural Center, 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-472-3170.

Oaksterdam University New Campus Opening With a ribbon cutting ceremony, VIP reception, staff guided tours, cannabis horticulture demonstrations, music, and dinner. Don Perata and Oakland City Councilwoman Rebecca Kaplan will preside over the ribbon cutting. For info, visit OaksterdamUniversity.com. Thu., Jan. 7, 5 p.m., $50-$300. Oaksterdam University, 1600 Broadway St., Oakland.

Red Cross Blood Drive Sat., Jan. 9, 7 a.m.-noon, free. 800-448-3543. Assumption Church Hall School, 1850 136th Ave., San Leandro. Mon., Jan. 11, free. 800-448-3543. Lodge Springs Academy, 2131 Olympic Blvd., Walnut Creek.

KIDS

Anime Club Anime discussion group for teens. Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month, 5-6:30 p.m. Info: Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

Art Connection: Children with Disabilities Ages 6-18 can learn to draw, work with clay, make simple prints, and enjoy an artistic environment in a group setting. Maximum five students per class. Call to reserve. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, $5. NIAD Art Center, 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADArt.org.

Bellevue's Fairyland Weekends Featuring [illegible] puppet House children's theater shows, the animal of the day, and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m., Sundays, 11 a.m. $6. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

Bottle My World A creativity workshop for kids grades 3-12. Please preregister. Ongoing, staff [illegible]. Fridays, 4-5:30 p.m., $15/session or $50/four sessions. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Cuentos en Español Discover and view favorites, read in Spanish, with vocabulary-building games and crafts from Spanish-speaking cultures around the world, and refreshments. First Wednesday of every month, 10 a.m.; First Saturday of every month, 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-547-0830.

East Side Teen Anime Club Opportunity for teens to watch anime films and discuss graphic novels. Second Wednesday of every month, 3-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch,

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6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5128. OaklandLibrary.org.

El Cerrito Recreation Department Go to El-Cerrito.org/recreation for information on the city's parks, classes, teen/youth services, senior activities, Project REACH, and more. Daily.

Facilitators [illegible] Girls Inc. program is for girls who want to earn community hours they need to graduate from high school. Participants are trained in leadership and facilitation skills, and then put those skills into action by working with younger girls at the Meyers Center. Teens develop their own lesson plans and activities, such as sign language, singing French songs, name poems, and trust games. Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Girls Inc. Meyers Center, Alameda. 510-521-4343, GirlsIncIslandCity.org.

[illegible] Self Defense for Teens Certified instructor Sara Connolly [illegible] classes just for girls ages 10-16, combining [illegible] [illegible] workout. Sundays, 6:35-7:05 p.m., $15 drop-in rate, $150 for unlimited classes/month. 510-847-2400, AlbanyKarate.com. Albany Karate for Kids, 2249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-524-8283.

Lakeview Chess Club Facilitated by [illegible]. Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Oakland Puppet Theater Sing-Along Winnie and Melia of the National Puppet Theater present. Tuesdays, 6:25 p.m. $4.95 for kids; $2 for each additional sibling, free for adults and infants. Sadie Bee's Cafe, 4210 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-601-8718. [illegible]

Oakland Mic Youth Speaks presents a monthly under-21 open mic hosted by [illegible] and featuring [illegible]. Second Friday of every month, 7 p.m. Free. 415-255-9035. YouthSpeaks.org. Oakland Art Gallery, 199 Kahn's Alley, Oakland. 510-637-0395. OaklandArtGallery.org.

[illegible] for Kids Ongoing classes in Indian classical dance. Saturdays, 9:30-10:50 a.m. [illegible] College of Indian Classical Arts, 1024 Delaware St., Berkeley. 510-712-2447. [illegible]

[illegible] Hill Recreation and Park District The parks service offers health and [illegible] to fencing, a full schedule of [illegible] classes and activities for kids of all ages, and more. Daily. [illegible]

Richmond Recreation and Parks Department Visit [illegible] for a complete list of sports teams, swimming activities, seniors' and kids' programs and much more. Daily.

San Francisco Girls Chorus [illegible] For info, visit SFGirlsChorus.org. Sat., Jan. 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Crowden Center for Music in the Community, 1475 Rose St., Berkeley. 510-559-6910, TheCrowdenSchool.org.

Teen Advisory Board [illegible] Wednesday of every month, 3:30-4:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Teen Time Thursdays Board games, [illegible], and movies. Thursdays, 3-5 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, Temescal Branch, 5205 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5049. OaklandLibrary.org.

Wild Robert Robert Children's program features hosted music, and magic tricks. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. Free. Berkeley Public Library, Claremont Branch, 2940 Benvenue St., Berkeley. 510-981-6280. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] Theater On Saturdays, visit a story and meet an animal. On Sundays, [illegible] more animals and learn [illegible]. Saturdays, 11:45 a.m. Sundays, 1:15 p.m. free with [illegible]. 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

Youth Drop-In Sports Schedule Grades 4-12 and all under-18s welcome; children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult. Daily, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. 925-373-5700.

LGBT

Dress-Up Wednesdays A [illegible] gathering for transgender girls, cross-dressers, and first-timers are welcome. Enjoy music and a large [illegible] of clothing for the woman in you. Dress up, make friends, take photos, and get [illegible]. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. $15-20. [illegible] 45879 Warm Springs Blvd. #7, Fremont. 510-656-4738, [illegible].com.

East Bay Front Runners Join the [illegible] group for noncompetitive runs and walks, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. Visit the Web site for weekly specials. Sundays, 9:30 a.m. free. [illegible] Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-6740.

Engaged 24s Discussion group for gay, bi, or questioning men in their twenties. Thursdays, 8:30 p.m., $5-$10 suggested donation. 510-548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

LGBT Youth Group Drop-in group for LGBT youth. Tuesdays: arts/crafts/writing/etc. Wednesdays: youth leadership. Thursdays: hot topics/guest speakers. Fridays: movies/video games. Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m., Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m., Thursdays, 4-6 p.m., Fridays, 4-6 p.m., free. 510-548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Sweet Sex Sundays Oakland [illegible] the Queens offers four hours of [illegible] taught by [illegible] Sundays, 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Continues through Jan. 24. $15-$64. 510-763-1243. [illegible] Oakland [illegible] Building, 200 Grand Ave. [illegible]

SOCIAL EVENTS

[illegible] Board game for [illegible]. Tuesdays, 9 p.m. free. [illegible], 2211 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-1793. [illegible].com.

Professor [illegible] Trivia Quiz Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m. free. Maggie McGarry's, 1353 Grant Ave., San Francisco. 415-399-9020, [illegible].com

Drinking Liberally [illegible] liberal group. Third Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Third Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m.; [illegible] of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; First Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m., free. Luke's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-454-4411. LukesOakland.com.

[illegible] Trivia Night Hosted by Justin B. [illegible]. Mondays, 8:30-9:30 p.m. free. [illegible] Cafe, 4500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. [illegible]Cafe.net.

The Living Philosophers Group A [illegible] discussion group. Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., [illegible]. Berkeley Senior Center, 1900 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

Oakland [illegible] [illegible] series featuring guest speakers, live [illegible], coffee and [illegible]. Second Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-noon. free. 510-228-3201. Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-654-0123.

[illegible] Spanish [illegible] Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m. free. [illegible] Community Church, 3595 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-531-4411. [illegible].org.

Style with Soles A clothing [illegible] swap with wine. [illegible] and more. First Thursday of every month, 5 p.m., $15. 925-382-0653. [illegible] Rebel Boutique, 402 Railroad Ave., [illegible]. 925-382-0653. [illegible].com.

[illegible] of Tri-Valley A clothing swapping open to all members and visitors. For more info, call 925-736-0272 or visit [illegible].com. First Saturday of every month, 6:30 p.m. The Outpost Grades, 3051 San [illegible] Rd., San Ramon. 925-831-1748.

[illegible] [illegible] discussion group. Every other Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. [illegible] Cafe La Scala, 1515 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-1770.

Weekly Sing-Alongs Led by Bob Allen. Free, drop-in, all ages, no experience necessary. Wednesdays, 4:30-5 p.m. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. AClibrary.org.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Albany [illegible] For info, visit [illegible]. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Mondays, 8 p.m. $40/mo for 2 classes per week; $30/mo for one class per week. [illegible] 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-6090.

East Bay [illegible] [illegible] Oakland recreational games of [illegible] at Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex and San Pablo [illegible] (2800 Mabel St., Berkeley). For info, call [illegible]. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. Continues through Feb. 25. $50. Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex, 400 Gilman St., Berkeley.

[illegible] Workshop: [illegible] Permaculture class taught by Matthew Sutton of [illegible]. Topics include choosing trees, how to plant a bare root tree, how to prune [illegible], annual pruning, and [illegible]. Sat., Jan. 9, 10 a.m.-noon. [illegible]. Ecohouse, 1305 Hopkins St., Berkeley. 510-841-3751.

Step-In Fly Fishing With 2.5 hours of classroom instruction in [illegible] fly selection, and [illegible] the water, plus three hours of practice on Lake Anza with a certified fly-casting instructor. Registration required. 1-888-EBPARKS. Sat., Jan. 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., [illegible]. Lake Anza, Wildcat Canyon and Grizzly Peak [illegible], Berkeley. [illegible], www.ebparks.org/parks/tilden.htm.

Join a Local [illegible]: Change Action Team The center offers a variety of [illegible] lowering your carbon footprint, [illegible] your weekly [illegible]. A [illegible] for the Low Carbon Diet [illegible]. Tue., Jan. 12, 6-8 p.m. free. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220, EcologyCenter.org.

Ladies' Night Special [illegible] for women. Info: 510-849-7373 ex. 222. Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., $15 to walk, $25 for a cart. $5 of each [illegible] will benefit the American Heart Association. Tilden Park Golf Course, Grizzly Peak and [illegible] Rd., Berkeley. 510-848-7373, TildenParkGolf.com.

Intro: How to Tune & Wax Your Skis/Snowboard Lecture and demonstration by REI snow board tech [illegible]. Tue., Jan. 12, 7-8:30 p.m. free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140, REI.com.

Metropolitan Golf Links [illegible] [illegible] Approximately [illegible]. 24-hour advance reservation required. Call 510-569-5555 and select option 1. Saturdays, 3:30 p.m. $35. Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland. 510-569-5555, [illegible].com.

Midnight [illegible] Second and Fourth Saturday of every month, 11:45 p.m. free. [illegible] Astro Park, MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Run Oakland! [illegible] Weekly [illegible] Leisurely 10-15 mile ride up Tunnel Road and through the Berkeley Hills. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. free. [illegible] Cafe, 4500 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. [illegible]Cafe.net.

Roc-N-Bowl Mondays, 10 p.m. $8.50 per game. Albany Bowl, 540 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-8818. AlbanyBowl.biz.

[illegible] Club Weekly Meeting [illegible] Year-round activities include waterskiing, softball, tennis, golf and more. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. [illegible] The Greenery Restaurant, 1551 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. [illegible]

[illegible] Weekly and Qi Gong [illegible] Students learn the elements of Shaolin qigong boxing forms that [illegible] the hands, eyes, body and feet. Through Feb. 1. Shaolin Luo Han Temple, 2030 Berkeley Wy., Berkeley.

SPORTS SPECTATOR

Golden State Warriors vs. Sacramento Kings NBA basketball. Fri., Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m. $15-$250. 1-888-GSW-HOOP. Warriors.com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

Golden State Warriors vs. Cleveland Cavaliers NBA basketball. Mon., Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m. $15-$250. 1-888-GSW-HOOP. Warriors.com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

Golden State Warriors vs. [illegible] NBA basketball. Wed., Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m. $15-$250. 1-888-GSW-HOOP. Warriors.com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

UC Berkeley Men's Basketball: Vs. UCLA at Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley campus. Wed., Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m. [illegible]. 800-GO-BEARS. CalBears.collegesports.com. Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. [illegible]

UC Berkeley Men's Basketball: Vs. USC at Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley campus. Sat., Jan. 9. [illegible]. 800-GO-BEARS. CalBears.collegesports.com/. Haas Pavilion.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

PICKS

Elvis Tiki Birthday Party

As far as Elvis enthusiasts go, you can't get any more serious than Will "the Thrill" Viharo and his wife Monica the Tiki Goddess. He lives in a world filled with 1960s paraphernalia (B-movies, rock 'n' roll, and anything tiki). She has an Elvis tattoo inscribed on her back in the form of a Navajo symbol. In fact, they fell in love (more or less) at an Elvis birthday celebration at the Ivy Room roughly a decade ago. This Friday, Jan. 8, at Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge (1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda), the couple hosts a special Thrillville celebration of Elvis' 75th birthday, complete with cocktails, movies, and prizes. 8 p.m. Free. Thrillville.net. — *Rachel Swan*

Will "the Thrill" and Monica the Tiki Goddess.

Marx in Soho

Howard Zinn may be incapable of thinking small. Not that he's [illegible]. Roughly two decades after publishing his most famous work, *A People's History of the United States*, Zinn switched from big political screeds to single-character studies. It just so happens that the first character he chose was the controversial 19th-century philosopher Karl Marx. Zinn's 1999 play *Marx in Soho* gives Marx a chance to reappear, one hundred years after his death, in Soho, New York. Old and feeble, but thoroughly aware, Marx attempts to disassociate himself from various totalitarian states. He excoriates the people who used his theories for evil. And he offers personal anecdotes about the man behind the manifesto — i.e., the Marx who struggled with family relationships, and poor health. Jerry Levy plays the lead role in a production directed by Michael Fox Kennedy, onstage Saturday, Jan. 9 through Monday, Jan. [illegible] at Flux 53 Theater ([illegible] Foothill Blvd., Oakland). 8 p.m., $15. Flux53.com. — *R.S.*

St. Mary's Basketball

The best college hoops in the East Bay may not be happening in Berkeley. The Golden Bears play in one of the "power" conferences, but the biggest little schools in the NCAA play in the West Coast Conference. On Thursday, Jan. 14, the St. Mary's men host Gonzaga at McKeon Pavilion (1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga) in a game that may preview two teams destined for March Madness at season's end. The St. Mary's squad, which won its first eleven games headed into conference play, finishes the weekend with a Saturday game against a tough team from the University of Portland, conquerors of UCLA, who legend has it are supposed to be the bullies of Wine Coast basketball. Time to create some new legends. Thursday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 7 p.m., $20-$35. SMCGaels.com — *Kibby Kleiman*

The News Behind the News
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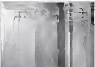
MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Fellow Travelers

Three artists explore location, dislocation, memory and imagination

The web is fast replacing reality in human consciousness, and we technophiles generally gain from the new ways to examine and interpret the world. The idea that tools shape brain evolution, or that instrumentality alters mentality, is old hat; of course. But smiling, happy iPod people should not assume that texting/tweeting supplants traditional material- and reality-based art. The mixed-media works by **Anne W. Edwards, Martin Webb**, and **Nanci Price Scoular** in *depARTure* demonstrate anew the virtues of imaginative struggle. David Hockney once theorized (disingenuously, during his photo-mosaic period) that the greater the time spent making an artwork, the better it is; it's a claim as bogus as is its converse. Travel broadens, and the creative journey (or grappling) is half the fun (or pain).

Edwards makes acrylic paintings based on her memories of exploring unfamiliar locales on foot; refracted through contemplation and improvisation, her sensations take abstract form in richly colored atmospheres ("Windswept," "Still Waters," "Setting Sun") pulsing with light and movement. They suggest, variously, surrealism, neo-romanticism, Abstract Expressionism, and color-field abstraction. These are lyrical, spiritualized landscapes in which collaged fragments of paper and cloth hover amid moody clouds or lava flows.



Nanci Price Scoular's "Urban Still Life XV"

Webb, who grew up in an English mining town and now often works with day laborers, is showing mixed-media (concrete, metal hardware, wood, tile) pieces dealing with the themes of immigration and home: "laborers, forgotten coal miners, and elusive coyotes (the quadrupeds, not the smugglers) caught in fragmented narratives in fragmented landscapes." These physically imposing yet elegant works ("Walgreen," "Depot," "Coyote") depict the contemporary built landscape, rendered with its own raw materials and bedecked with signs and shadows.

Scoular, South African by birth, focuses on immigration, too. Her "Journeys" works — digitally printed photographs on canvas obscured with overlays of acrylic paint — suggest ambiguity and change, but with paradoxical visual authority (Lionel Feininger and J.M.W. Turner come to mind). The recurrent "rusted iron rings and gates" bound to concrete ... [symbolize] the yearning of an immigrant to gain entry, commit and belong ... [to] never go back," to forge "a new context and meaning." Reception with didgeridoo performance by Travis Warner on Saturday, January 23. *DepARTure* runs through February 13 (along with neon/xenon plasma light sculptures by Michael Padgett) at **Float Gallery** (1091 Calcot Pl., #116, Oakland). 510-535-1702 or TheFloatCenter.com.

— *DeWitt Cheng*

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ART GALLERIES

Albatross Pub. Paintings by Jody Sobin Through Jan. 24. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473. AlbatrossPub.com.

Autobody Fine Art. [illegible]: A Solo Show The exhibition will feature a variety of works ranging from minutely detailed drawings and [illegible] Renaissance [illegible] with [illegible] to brightly colored assemblages that carry complicated meaning within their formal arrangement. Sat., Jan. 9. Free. [illegible] autobodyfineart.com. 1517 Park Blvd., Alameda.

Bedford Gallery. Triumph of Virtue Leslie Dixon is the curator [illegible], and [illegible], [illegible] of clay and ceramic works. Through Jan. 31. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Center. [illegible] Berkeley Art Center Annual Members Exhibition Work by dozens of artists at affordable prices. Through Jan. 24. 12-5 p.m. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Berkeley Art Museum. The [illegible] Series Works by Colombian painter Fernando Botero. Through Feb. 7. 2626 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Cecile Moochnek Gallery. The Gift of Art new works by Tyrell Collins, Carol Jones, [illegible], Lori Goldman, Anne Hunter Hamilton, [illegible], John Holsberry, Jennifer Kent, [illegible], Lucy [illegible], Kevin [illegible], Emily Payne, featuring [illegible], Carol Lee Shanks, [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible]. Through Jan. 17. 12-5 p.m. Free. 1809-D Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-549-1018. CecileMoochnek.com.

Oakland. [illegible] Art Center. Holiday Project With work by Kathleen Henderson, Meagan [illegible], Ed [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], and Paper [illegible]. Through Jan. 14. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-830-2340. CreativeGrowth.org.

Eclectic Gallery. The Lucas & Fuzzy Show Through Jan. 16. 10082 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-364-7201. EclecticGallery.com.

Intersection for The Arts. One Day: A [illegible] Narrative of [illegible] Multi-media [illegible] featuring the work of eight artists living in Tehran [illegible] by [illegible]: Amin Alizadeh, Mohammad [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], alongside new work by San Francisco-based artist Taraneh Hemami. Through Jan. 23. 446 Valencia St., San Francisco. 415-626-3311.

Johansson [illegible]. Earth Engines Featuring works by David [illegible] and Barry Underwood. Through Jan. 10. Free. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

Joyce Gordon Gallery. Amor Fati Group exhibit featuring work by [illegible] (Eugene Hidalgo, [illegible], Carla [illegible], Mel Vera Cruz), [illegible], [illegible] & Juan Carlos [illegible], [illegible], and Carlos Villa. Opening reception Fri., Jan. 8, 6-9 p.m. Jan. 8-Feb. 11. **Amor Fati** Opening reception Fri., Jan. 8, 6-9 p.m. Jan. 8-Feb. 11. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden. [illegible] & [illegible] Paintings by Steve McDowell. Opening reception Sat., Jan. 9, 6-8 p.m. Jan. 6-March 2. 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385. [illegible].

[illegible] Gallery. The Book Has Art Show Featuring work in a variety of media, ranging from comic book art to political posters. Artists include Mark [illegible], Gary Burgess, [illegible], Josh Greenberg, Robert Hernandez, Pete Kelly, Fred King, Brian Longo, [illegible], Robert Murray, James Patterson, Vivian Rogers, [illegible], Peter Van Kleef, [illegible], Jim Whatley, Agnes Yau, and [illegible]. Opening reception Jan. 8, 6-8 p.m. Through Feb. 11. 2513 [illegible] Ave., Alameda. 510-845-5060. [illegible].

Kala Art Institute. [illegible] Home [illegible] and The [illegible] featuring Multi-media installation by Helen Meyer Harrison and Newton Harrison. Through Feb. 18. **On Stone: New Work from Kala** New Work by Alex [illegible], [illegible], Cesar Conover, Jeffrey [illegible], Ellen Hauk, Sharon [illegible], Steven Nunnally, [illegible], [illegible], Sera Tsujita, Sella Tachibana and Karen Teuscurcaran. Through Feb. 6. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

Kala Frames + Art. Lil Taffy [illegible] exhibition of limited edition screenprinted art, gig posters, show prints, and [illegible]. Through Jan. 30. 812 23rd St., Oakland. 510-625-0123. [illegible].

Lindsay Dirkx Brown Gallery. Lynn Shephard [illegible] Art Show San Jose [illegible] Community Center instructor Lynn Shephard presents a showcase of student work in watercolor and acrylic. Jan. 6-31. 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. 925-973-3200.

Lucca's Dogs Cafe. [illegible] Show Black and white photographs of Steve [illegible] by Charles Stone. Through Jan. 3. 871 8th St. [illegible], Oakland. 510-881-5872.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Offices. The Art of Steel: Insights from Shanghai Images of the Shanghai fabrication of components for the new east span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. Through Jan. 8. **Strength & Gold** Photo exhibit by Karl Nielson, featuring images from his trip to Antarctica. Through Jan. 8. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-464-7773.

Paws and Claws. "Dogs Bark" Art Exhibit Photographer Cathy Cade's [illegible] images of dog fur and tree bark. Through Jan. 15, 2010. MacArthur Blvd., [illegible]. 510-336-0195.

The Arts. Jewish Women 2010 Selections from London curator Shannon Gan, featuring work by Robert Alberts, Chris Ashley, Steven Barich, Timothy Berkwitz, Jane Fisher, Adam Green, Elizabeth Johnson, Lisa S. Kang, Eric London, Helen Lee, Janet Lucas, Anne Ludwig, [illegible], Michael McConnell, [illegible], Jill McLennan, Gordon, Hoang Nguyen, Lauren [illegible], Ryan, Tim Ryan, Julianne Stering, Marilyn Wong, Lila [illegible], and Pamela Zwehl-Burke. Through Jan. 15. Free. [illegible] 2010 Selections from [illegible] curator Shannon Gan, featuring work by [illegible], Chris Ashley, Steven Barich, Timothy Berkwitz, Jane Fisher, Adam Green, Elizabeth [illegible], Lisa S. Kang, Eric London, Helen Lee, Janet Lucas, Anne Ludwig, [illegible], [illegible] McConnell, Alex McKenna, Jill McLennan, Gordon, Hoang Nguyen, Lauren Parent, David Ryan, Tim Ryan, [illegible], Marilyn Wong, Lila Yakovsky, and Pamela Zwehl-Burke. Through Jan. 15. Free. 150 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361. FineArtsGallery.org.

Shepherd Cafe. East Bay Women Artists' [illegible] Art Show Featuring women artists working in oil, acrylic, [illegible], watercolor and photography. Through Feb. 3. Free. 5460 College Ave., Oakland. 510-663-1547.

Rosenthal Gallery. [illegible] With work by Megan Whitmarsh, James [illegible], Matt [illegible], Clare Rojas, Jane Fine, [illegible], Kelly Allen, R. Nicholas Kuszyk and [illegible] Weisberg. Through Jan. 8. 365 [illegible] St., San Francisco. 415-552-1010. RosenthalGallery.com.

Swarm Gallery. + Gallery. Shop Show Small work from [illegible] art books, apparel, and limited [illegible] by [illegible], John-Carey, [illegible], [illegible] M.E. Moore, [illegible], Sarah A. Smith, David Higgins, and [illegible]. Plus publications by [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible]. Through Jan. 24. 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787. [illegible].

Trasloud 23 Gallery. The Roof Show Featuring work by Abyt, Amé, Ant, Atlas, Aware, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], and Zero. Through Jan. 22. 2443 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. [illegible].

Women's [illegible] Art Gallery. Perception/Reality Through Jan. 30. 5847 College Ave., Oakland. 510-654-4251.

Zen Artspace. [illegible] Exhibit based on Warren Goetz-Giffen's art [illegible] featuring work by Vanessa Malda, Conor [illegible], Sarah Stone, Wiley [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], Eric Philpott, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], Geoff [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], Zach Houston, Luke Judd, [illegible], [illegible], Jon Latimer, Jones [illegible], and [illegible]. Opening reception Sun., Jan. 10, 5-9 p.m., with music by [illegible], [illegible], the [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible]. Jan. 10-31. Free. 708 40th St., Oakland. [illegible].

[illegible] Art Gallery. Luxury [illegible] 2009 Black and white photography exhibit featuring work by seven students under the direction of [illegible]. Through Jan. 31. Free. 900 Fallon St., [illegible], Oakland. 510-464-3581.

MUSEUMS

Asian Art Museum. [illegible]: Art of [illegible] With 145 artworks from the museum's collection, including gilded [illegible] vessels, inlaid furniture, paintings, and [illegible]. Through Jan. 10. **In a New Light** These works from the museum's collection represent an introduction to the major themes of Asian [illegible]. 200 Larkin St., San Francisco. 415-581-3500. AsianArt.org.

Berkeley Art Museum. Assignment: Shanghai: Photographs on the Eve of [illegible] Through June 27. 2626 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Exploratorium. Store of Life A [illegible] of [illegible] and demonstrations examining

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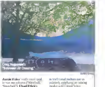
PICKS

Craig Nagasawa


Craig Nagasawa's "Between Air Crossing."

Jasper Johns was fascinated by "a thing's not being what it was ... its becoming something other than what it is ... [the] moment in which one identifies a thing precisely and ... the slipping away of that moment." **Craig Nagasawa** similarly seeks "a liminal space ... suspended between memory and the present." Melding painting, photography, and collage, he creates in-between, hybrid spaces that are overtly artificial in the contemporary mode, yet sometimes verging on Romantic pantheism. In one almost operatically symbolic image, a silhouetted figure reposes atop an altar-like bed at lake's edge beneath a pair of sheltering trees, the bedspread embroidered with tendrils. Another oil depicts a drawing/painting/photo of late-afternoon flowers and grasses standing, entwined by fencing, within the noonday landscape, scale and time synthesized and reconciled. *Craig Nagasawa* runs through May 7 at **Townsend Center** (220 Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley). 510-643-9670 or TownsendCenter.Berkeley.edu. *— DeWitt Cheng*

Warm & Fuzzy/Delicate

Should your inner Scrooge need taming for the holidays, pop surrealism's cheerfully cartoony weirdness might help. The nearly sixty paintings in *Warm & Fuzzy* include **Yvette Buigues'** mysterious animal protagonists ("Standing Hare," "Apple-a-Day"); **Chrystal Chan's** ("Sweet Magnolias," "Safe") and **Sheri Debow's** ("The Wild Ride (Ostrich Girl)") females in strange situations; **Jamie Fales'** walls enveloped in various spheres ("Meatball," "Snowball"); **Chad Frick's** Wild-Thing animals in stylized jungles ("Green Tiger II," "Fuzzy Madra"); **Arabella Proffer-Vendetta's** portraits of sleek, enigmatic women ("Edwina," "Noel"); **Chiami Sekine's** benign bears ("Hello Teddy," "Gee"); **Johnny Tiylesine's** figures merged with decorations ("Alotha [illegible] Eve"); **Michelle Waters'** arcadia satires on Christmas/Christendom ("Stigmatized," "Reluctant Monarch"), and, downstairs, in a separate show entitled *Delicate*, **Kurtis Rykovich's** glam femmes bedecked with collaged rhinestones ("Gossip," "The Collector"). *Warm & Fuzzy and Delicate* run through January 10 at Eclectic Gallery (10070 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito). 510-734-7081 or Eclectic[illegible].com. *— DC*

George Pfau

The old battle between representation and abstraction is over, like a Pyrrhic [illegible]. Contemporary artists generally believe neither is a traditional medium nor a painterly epiphany, so mixing modes is no longer taboo. **George Pfau's** paintings combine found news photos (to which he adds seasonal touches), architectural/mechanical diagrams, abstract patterns from partially retraced photos, and pure brushy paint. The hybrid matrices suggest Dada collage fragments/inclusions emerging from the wreckage of collapsing cultural systems, or fossils unearthed by temblors. In "Transmission," a gorilla that has plateaued [illegible] the ground gazes at a yawning seagull; floating above are a bald eagle, a roundtable of business execs, a bird-clawed tradesman, and SF's pyramidal landmark. In "Old-Fashioned Dynamite [illegible]," a motley cross-creature, Jima-style, a seemingly weightless Trojan horse and (why not?) apatosaurus, flanked by cartoon-figure totem poles set before an archaeological-dig background. *George Pfau* runs through January 14 at **Latham Square** (1611 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). 510-763-1361 or ProArtsGallery.org/exhibitions. *— D.C.*

M&G

the fundamental elements. Science to all living things. Daily. 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco, 415-561-0360. Exploratorium.edu.

Habitot Children's Museum: Shel Game: The ongoing exhibition of Roger Goldenberg's painting, *Shel Game, The [illegible]*. The Building Planet. Daily. 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology: From the [illegible] Hand: From the permanent collection, a selection of works from China, Egypt, and Peru plus baskets in Africa, North America, and the Mediterranean. Daily. **[illegible] Bobbie [illegible]:** The "visible storage" exhibition [illegible] some 500 objects from the museum's collection of [illegible] California cultures. Daily. Kroeber Hall, Berkeley, 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.berkeley.edu.

[illegible] of [illegible] Art: Collective [illegible] Artists, Celebrating Diversity through Mosaics: An ongoing group show. Daily.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more SF art events at EastBayExpress.com or on EastBayExpress.com

Kraebel Art: Pot Portraitures: A [illegible] of pots. In [illegible]. Daily. 3601 Chapman St., Oakland, 510-437-9690. [illegible].com.

Lacis: Between [illegible] Textiles. Bobbin Lace: The Twisting of Multitudes of Threads: Exhibit on the 500-year-old art of bobbin and tatting lace. Through Feb. 1. 2982 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-843-7290. Lacis[illegible].org.

Lawrence Hall of Science: Science on a Sphere (SOS): New permanent exhibit features an animated globe. Watch hurricanes form, tsunamis sweep across the oceans, and city lights glow around the planet. Daily. 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley, 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallof Science.org.

Legion of Honor: Bobbie and Between: Jewelry exhibition featuring work by Cartier who was known as "King of Jewelers" during the Belle Époque. Through April 19. 34th Ave. and Clement St., San Francisco, 415-750-3600. LegionofHonor.org.

Judah L. Magnes Museum: Projections: [illegible] works from the museum's extensive collection of archival, documentary and experimental films. Daily. **Memory Lab:** Interactive [illegible] allows visitors to create digital family albums and exhibitions based on their own documents, photographs, and memories. Daily. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley, 510-549-6950. Magnes.org.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art: Between and Beyond: The Painting and Sculpture Collection: Pieces from the museum's holdings, including work by Kahlo, Matisse, Rauschenberg, [illegible] et al. Daily. **Between Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection:** Large-scale installations and multiple-work presentations [illegible] the museum's collections. Daily. **The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design Collection:** An ongoing presentation of works of architecture, graphic design, and industrial design. Daily. **Picturing Modernity: The Photography Collection:** From the museum's vast holdings, photos by Adams, Cunningham, Evans, Lange, Stieglitz, et al. Daily. 151 3rd St., San Francisco, 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

USS Hornet Museum: TBM Avenger: WWII torpedo bomber restored by volunteers. Daily. **Naval Soldiers' Experience:** Photos and memorabilia telling the story of the nisei (second generation) Japanese American [illegible] who fought for the US in WWII. Daily. Pier 3, Alameda, 510-521-8448 ex. 244. USS-Hornet.org.

Zeum: Quality Watch: A hands-on exhibit for kids that provides safe access to arts, media, and technology. Daily. 221 4th St., San Francisco, 415-777-2800. Zeum.org.

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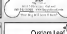

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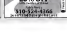

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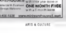

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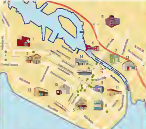

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6. K-Gallery at Rhythmix 2513 Blanding Ave. rhythmix.org	7. Bridgehead Studio 2516 Blanding Ave.	8. Autobody Fine Art Gallery 1517 Park St. autobodyfineart.com	9. Float Art Gallery 1001 Calcot plc 116 TheFloatCenter.com	10. Bridgeland Studios 2254 Santa Clara Ave bridgelandstudios.com
11. Ferrealism Studios 2527 Clement #B ferrealism.com	11. Guerro Glass 2527 Clement #C guerroglass.com	12. Inferno Gallery 4401 San Leandro St infernogallery.com	13. Alameda Art Assoc. 2240 South Shore Cent. Rd alamedaartassociation.com	14. 3D Gardens 2510 Blanding Ave. #C ebboards@gmail.com

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THEATER & DANCE

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Aurélia's Oratorio Written and directed by Victoria Thierrée Chaplin. Through Jan. 24. $33.50-$71. Berkeley Repertory Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949.

[illegible], The Musical Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through Jan. 10. $15-$20. Campbell [illegible] 835 Ward St., Martinez. 925-798-1300.

Jungle Book City of Pleasanton Civic Arts presents [illegible] adaptation of the classic tale by Rudyard Kipling. Fri., Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 9, 11 a.m., $18-$35. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. 925-484-8000.

Marx in Soho Howard Zinn's play about the life of Karl Marx. Directed by Michael Fox. [illegible] with Jerry Levy in the lead role. Jan. 9-10, 8 p.m., $15. The 55 Theater, 5105 Foothill Blvd., [illegible].

The Threepenny Opera written by Bertolt Brecht, music by Kurt Weill, directed by Susannah Martin. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through Jan. 17. $15-$30. The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500. ShotgunPlayers.org.

Xanadu Starting Jan. 8. Thursdays-Saturdays, 7 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 10, 2 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 16, 2 p.m. Continues through Jan. 16. $15-$28.50. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette. 925-283-1557.

More Listings Online
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DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Live Salsa Music Beginning and intermediate dance sessions plus a live musical performance by a different act each week. Wednesdays, 8 p.m., $10-$15. [illegible], 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-7150. [illegible].

LIVE VARIETY

Live Lingerie Book w/ [illegible]. Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m., free. Warehouse Bar, 497 [illegible] St., Martinez. 800-655-3181. TheWarehouseBar.net.

COMEDY

[illegible] Fri., Jan. 8, 8 p.m., $20.50. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerformances.org.

Laughter Against the Machine With W. Kamau Bell, Hari Kondabolu, and Nato Green. Jan. 7-9, 8 p.m., $18-$20. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland. TheNewParish.com.

[illegible] Wed., Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.; Thu., Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Jan. 15, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 16, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 17, 7 p.m. $15-$30. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

Robert Schimmel Fri., Jan. 8, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 9, 7 & 9:30 p.m. $20-$30. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

[illegible] Showcase With rotating acts. Fridays, 9 p.m., $12-$15. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St., #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Thursday Night Fling With rotating acts. Thursdays, 8 p.m., $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St., #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

[illegible] A vaudeville game show-style MC battle and poetry slam hosted by Jamie Kennedy and Geoff [illegible]. First Thursday of every month, 8:30 p.m., $7-$10. Oakland Metro Operahouse, 630 3rd St. [illegible]. 510-763-1146. OaklandMetro.org.

PICKS

Aurélia Thierrée.

Threepenny Opera

Lest you doubt the viability of Bertolt Brecht's ***Threepenny Opera***, look no further than its signature tune. "Mack the Knife" (supposedly composed as an afterthought), it's been covered by everyone from Frank Sinatra to Pearl Bailey to Jimmy Buffet, deployed in ad campaigns, and featured on *American Idol*. Likewise, Brecht's 75-year-old script still has resonance today. He debuted it in 1928 around the time of a worldwide economic meltdown that eerily foreshadowed our current banking crisis. Moreover, it has tons of jaunty musical numbers, Marxist messages, and irreverent satire and, in its own way, prototypically punk rock. Local director Susannah Martin took note and went all the way punk with her current Shotgun Players production of *Threepenny*, which includes a seven-piece band, industrial set pieces by Nina Ball, and choreography by Erika Chong Shuch. But for a few contemporary references, the play is faithful to Brecht's original structure and stage directions. Yet the sheer infectiousness of actors Jeff Wood and Kelsey Venter (as lead characters MacHeath and his chick, Polly) makes it worthwhile. Through January 17 at **Ashby Stage** (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). ShotgunPlayers.org. — *Rachel Swan*

Aurélia's Oratorio

By birthright, her pedigree, it would have been sacrilegious for **Aurélia Thierrée** to become anything besides a clown. The granddaughter of Charlie Chaplin and great-granddaughter of playwright Eugene O'Neill, she grew up performing in circuses and learning the art of nouveau cirque, a vaudevillian form that her parents helped generate and later imparted to Cirque du Soleil. Aurélia's mother Victoria Chaplin Thierrée conceived and directed her current show ***Aurélia's Oratorio***, which features aerial tricks, body contortion, and phenomenal dance performances, many of them given a bizarre context. (The best happens when Aurélia and costar Jaime Martinez squabble over a coat, then do an elaborate tango in which the garment keeps changing hands.) Void of narrative and dialogue, the show nonetheless has incredible rhythmic command. The skits work in sequence, starting with Aurélia's now-famous trick of emerging, one limb at a time, from a chest of drawers. It even finds space with enough sensual choreography to balance out the gags. Through January 24 at **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** (2025 Addison St.). $33.50-$71. BerkeleyRep.org. — *RS*

The Isadora Duncan Awards

Join the Bay Area dance community in honoring the outstanding achievements of performers, choreographers, costumers, and stage designers at the 24th annual **Isadora Duncan Awards**, affectionately known as the Izzies. The event is a great way to celebrate the excellence of our rich local talent pool — "local" being a tad misleading, since so many Bay Area artists and companies are world-renowned — and whet your appetite for performances and pieces you can seek out in the upcoming season. The nominees are always a diverse bunch, and this year's class includes Katie Faulkner, Tina LeBlanc, Scott Wells, the Obakoso Drum and Dance Ensemble, Theatre Flamenco, AXIS Dance, and many others. Sponsored by Berkeley's Shawl-Anderson Dance Center and open to the public, the Izzies take place Tuesday, Jan. 12, at the **Koret Auditorium** in the **San Francisco Main Public Library** (100 Larkin St.). 8 p.m., free. Izzies.org. — *Claudia Bauer*

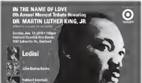
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Image: Adam Green, Happiness

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Garrick Ohlsson, piano
Sun, Jan 10, 3 pm
Zellerbach Hall. Tickets start at $36
Acclaimed pianist Garrick Ohlsson has several highly anticipated Chopin projects scheduled in 2010, including four recitals at Lincoln Center, a documentary directed by Larry Weinstein, who made the award-winning Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould, and this all-Chopin program at Cal Performances.
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[illegible] maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs, [illegible] walking, amazing displays of contortion [illegible] the excitement and festive pageantry of a Chinese [illegible] accompaniment from an authentic Chinese [illegible] jugglers [illegible]

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THEATER

HIT FROM LEFT FIELD

"Laughter Against the Machine" strikes at Joe Lieberman, Blue Dog Democrats, and the movie *Precious*

By Rachel Swan

Beth Allen

No one is safe in "Laughter Against the Machine."

Collectively, the three comedians starring in "Laughter Against the Machine" have one Huffington Post blog, several alt-weekly columns, a degree in comparative politics, a degree in history, one long-running radio-show-turned-webcast, and three ongoing critiques about hegemony and the fallacy of a "post-racial" America. There might be the brainiest, most literate comedy tour to hit the Bay Area this January. It's smart, it's heady, it gets to the very edge of what's tolerable for a left-wing, politically correct audience. In fact, the comedians don't ever clarify which members they're attacking. Sometimes it's an obvious target (Joe Lieberman, the cop who arrested Henry Louis Gates, the state of Oregon). Other times, it's a sacred cow (Tyler Perry, Kwanzaa, the movie *Precious*). Such wide-ranging assaults make the show more interesting. But they also require a little suspension of liberal mores.

Take Nato Green, who opened the New Year's Eve show at San Francisco's Phoenix Theatre. Raised in Bernal Heights, Green attended gay pride parades as a toddler (he calls himself a heterosexual "Tarzan among gays"). He listened to Mort Sahl and Lenny Bruce records as part of his bar mitzvah preparation. Green says he has a "borderline Asperger compulsion" to challenge conventional wisdom — whether it be about Blue Dog Democrats or foodie fascism. (Green has written humorous tirades in defense of meat, and about the "Healthy San Francisco" surcharge for restaurant workers' health care.) Right off the bat, Green absolves himself from the "cool white guy" role that awaits him. He's not an equal-opportunity writer of insults (Green mostly derides Jewish politicians, fellow Democrats, misogynists, and countercultural snobs) but he does have a knack for pushing boundaries. His Holocaust jokes require a lot of exposition, as does the one about wanting to fuck Joe Lieberman in the eye with a blunt instrument (it's named in the show but shan't be committed to print). Nonetheless, it takes a pretty hip audience to get the humor.

Hari Kondabolu, who followed Green, was the night's most acerbic comedian. Following the rule that everyone gets to make fun of his own ethnicity — and white people — he based most of his routine on colonialism. Not just the old-fashioned kind (though he did have a hilarious joke about an abusive girlfriend who symbolizes the British empire) but also the contemporary kind — that thing we call "cultural appropriation." Kondabolu's favorite examples occur in Portland, Oregon, which, he says, is ground zero for tepid chai, misuse of the red dot on the forehead, and backstage parties where not one but two didgeridoo players compete for stage time.

Now, there's nothing too extraordinary about tearing Portland a new asshole, but few comics do it with such vehemence. And Kondabolu doesn't stop there. He also denigrates white chocolate ("from the same people who brought you white Jesus") and vegan soul food ("It's like a heavy metal cover album of Motown classics"). He offers a new "modest proposal" that would allow us to slaughter rich people for their organs. Most importantly, Kondabolu is not above heckling his audience. "You've been lukewarm so far, audience," he announced midway through a New Year's set. Audience members chuckled politely in agreement.

Featured comic W. Kamau Bell made fun of Tyler Perry and the girl from *Precious* (who, he argues, should get dibs on Reese Witherspoon's next five movie roles). He had the best jokes of the evening. He also went from the pop cultural to the personal, offering anecdotes about his interracial marriage and strained relationship with his in-laws — which were as enlightening as they were funny. Style-wise, Bell has a lot in common with Green. Both of them speak with a lot of asides. Both are prolific bloggers, to the extent that there's not much disconnect between their writing and speaking voices. (In fact, it's not always clear whether most of their jokes generate on a legal pad or onstage.) Both enjoy reflexive irony, even if it means deriding the groups to which they claim membership.

"Laughter Against the Machine" is actually an ongoing tour that launched in October 2008, when Bell, Green, and Kondabolu did a spate of election year shows together. They delivered a tidy package, with a lot of overlapping themes and squirmy political topics. The show was such a success that they continued through 2009, finding new things to be angry about, even in the wake of Obama's victory. (Once the contact high wore off, Glenn Beck and other right-wing militias started coming out of the woodwork.) Host Emily Heller provided a little respite with fifteen minutes of genuinely self-deprecating material. Otherwise, the show made good on its name. Despite a lukewarm audience, its New Year's Eve edition delivered a few big laughs and a lot of hard-hitting social commentary. That bodes well for this week's run in Oakland. ●

Show Details

Laughter Against the Machine runs Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 7-9, at the New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland). 9 p.m. $10-$15. TheNewParish.com

To share this story, go to: ebx.by/laughter

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

LECTURES & LIT

Happy Happy Joy Joy

The best things in life aren't things, James Baraz insists

James Baraz

You know what you want. But why and how you want it matter too, **James Baraz** writes in his new book *Awakening Joy: Ten Steps That Will Put You on the Road to Real Happiness*.

"If we want the seeds we plant to produce huge beautiful blossoms, our intention for greater well-being must be motivated by a big beautiful desire," asserts the Berkeley author, who will discuss his work at **Northbrae Community Church** (941 The Alameda, Berkeley) on Tuesday, January 12. "So don't hold back."

A cofounder of Marin County's Spirit Rock Meditation Center, Baraz has taught meditation for more than twenty years — but that hasn't been any guarantee of nonstop happiness.

"Going through my own 'serious' period as a Buddhist practitioner, I lost my joy," he remembers. "In 2000, my wife Jane gave me the book *How We Choose to Be Happy* by Rick Foster and Greg Hicks, which offered a blueprint for developing happiness based on researching 300-plus genuinely happy people over a three-year period." Reading it, Baraz was startled to realize that "although the authors had little knowledge of Buddhism, each principle had a direct correlation to classical Buddhist teachings." He decided to share the book with his own meditation group "through the lens of Buddhism," using Buddhist techniques to address its themes. "To my delight, as we all practiced together and supported each other in the process, most found that their base level of happiness began to increase," he said.

This inspired Baraz to create the online Awakening Joy course on which his new book is based. And while he acknowledges that "happiness science" and "happiness studies" are trendy these days, he calls *Awakening Joy* "not just another book about happiness. More than simply offering suggested strategies to change your behavior, it uses time-tested practices, training the mind to learn new ways of thinking."

That's not easy in a consumerist society whose members are compelled, trained, and cajoled to spend most of every waking day thinking about things. "We're bombarded with thousands of marketing messages," Baraz laments. "We might even know, as one bumper sticker says, 'The best things in life are not things,' but we can still believe that something else out there will make us happy. ... But how long does the satisfaction last once we receive the coveted object?" Not long, he points out, comparing this all-too-common experience to that of "hamsters in an exercise wheel — running but never arriving."

Thus the first of his ten steps to happiness involves shifting the search inward. "If genuine happiness is not based on objects or experience, where can it be found?" Baraz asks. "As my colleague Sylvia Boorstein puts it, 'Happiness is an inside job.' When we consciously intend to be happy, actually saying that intention aloud or to ourselves, we set in motion a radical transformation. Profound changes begin to take place."

The best news, he adds, is that "in these times of economic uncertainty ... happiness is not expensive." 7:30 p.m., free. Northbrae.org

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story, go to: ebx.by/p/baraz

LECTURES

Dr. Scott Lilienfeld's Blink or Think? A Skeptic's Guide to the Pros and Cons of Commonsense Intuition Bay Area Skeptics presents a lecture by Scott Lilienfeld. Thu., Jan. 7, free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Garbage Unlimited and **The Story of Cap and Trade** Film screenings, discussion, and report back from the international conference on global warming in Copenhagen. Sponsored by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives. For info visit No Burning. Thu., Jan. 7, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m. $20-$40. Ecology Media Center, 2020 [illegible] St., Berkeley.

Saint Mary's College the Term Speaker Series [illegible] Life [illegible] will provide insight into the future of hip hop music in social justice commentary. Wed., Jan. 13, 1 p.m., free. 925-631-4635, stmarys-ca.edu/news-and-events/[illegible]. Saint Mary's College Soda Activity Center, Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. 925-631-4379.

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LITERARY EVENTS

[illegible] Dance and Slide Show [illegible] by [illegible]. Mon., Jan. 11, 7 p.m., free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Albany.

First Thursdays A monthly open mic with the area readers and/or graduated poet. First Thursday of every month, 1-5 p.m., free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. AClibrary.org.

[illegible] Stanley Robinson & Terry Blason [illegible] political poems and Italian commentary. Wed., Jan. 13, 1:30 p.m.

[illegible] Library [illegible] Second Tuesday of every month, 6:45 p.m., free. Alameda Library, 1550 Oak St., Alameda. [illegible] www.ci.alameda.ca.us/library/[illegible] **Better of the World/La Paloma**

Madrid with [illegible] Fourth and Second Sunday of every month, 3:30 p.m., free. Rebecca's Group, 2868 Adeline St., Berkeley.

Pleasant Hill Library Book Club Second Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m., free. Pleasant Hill Library, 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill. 925-646-6434.

The Remainders Book Group First Thursday of every month, 1-5 p.m. El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante. 510-374-3991. www.contra-costa.lib.ca.us/[illegible]

[illegible] Williams and Kate [illegible] Discussing *The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better*. Wed., Jan. 6, 1 p.m. [illegible] Inc. Berkeley, 1700 4th St., Berkeley.

[illegible] Gospel [illegible] Journey of the Italians in America: a historic retelling of the Italian immigrant experience. Sat., Jan. 9, 2 p.m., free. Crockett Library, 991 Loring Ave., Crockett.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Amnesty International Monthly Meeting All are welcome. Second Monday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Dattan, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-663-9965. [illegible]

Democracy for America Meeting The Alameda chapter invites everyone to attend its monthly meeting for food, drink, and discussion of progressive politics. Register at DFA.meetup.com. First Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. Pizza Palermo, 2155 Harbor Square Dr., Alameda. 510-864-7420. [illegible]

Food Bank Workshop for Oakland Food Insecurity Members An Alameda County Community Food Bank representative shows how to apply for food stamps. Times vary. Second Tuesday of every month, 2:30-4:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400. OaklandLibrary.org.

SPOKEN WORD

The Tao by Adam Dattar [illegible] the rise of game theory during the Cold War and the way in which its mathematical models of human behavior filter into behavior thought. Wed., Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m., free. 510-665-8008. [illegible] Hall, 580 27th St., Oakland. 510-451-5818. [illegible]

PICKS

Raj Patel

Why we pay too much and pay too much for it, and an object's price bears no relation to its value, argues economist **Raj Patel** in his new book *The Value of Nothing: How to Reshape Market Society and Redefine Democracy*, which he discusses at **A Great Good Place for Books** (6120 La Salle Ave., Oakland) on Friday, Jan. 8. In his vision of a better world, humankind curbs its desires and social equality reigns. 7 p.m., free. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com — *Anneli Rufus*

Didgeridoo Lecture

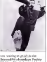
As a noted poet and the producer of KFJC's "Music of the World" program, **Stephen Kent** has loved the didgeridoo since he first learned to play it from Australian Aboriginals in 1981. Now a master who discusses his chosen instrument and its cultural significance worldwide, Kent presents a lecture and concert at **Ashkenaz** (1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley) **Didgeridoo Summit** on Sunday, Jan. 10. 7:30 p.m., $10-$15. Ashkenaz.com — *A.R.*

Dan Kammen

In his book *Should We Risk It?* UC Berkeley energy-and-resources professor **Dan Kammen**, director of UCB's Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory, examines the actual dangers of everything from smoking to climate change. At the **Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on Tuesday, Jan. 12, Kammen delivers an update on the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. 1 p.m., $5-$20 sliding scale. OLLI.Berkeley.edu — *A.R.*

Poetry Workshop

Do you suspect that poems are buried somewhere deep inside you, waiting to get out? At the **Second Wednesdays Poetry Writing Workshop**, which meets at the **Albany Library** (1247 Marin Ave.) on Wednesday, Jan. 13, local poet and creative-writing teacher **Alison Sewak** leads exercises aimed at finding those hidden sources of inspiration and nurturing them in a supportive atmosphere. 7 p.m., free. ACLibrary.org — *A.R.*


Stephen Kent.

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BODY & SOUL

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They're here, they're Gnostic, get used to it.

Admit it. You've wondered now and then whether God might not actually be a very nice guy. And you've wondered what Jesus knew, how and when he knew it, and what he did with whatever he knew.

Well, the Gnostics wonder, too.

An ancient spiritual path veiled in mystery — some say it even predates the alleged birth of Christ — Gnosticism holds that an imperfect deity of not-entirely-determinate gender rules the universe and that a wealth of esoteric hidden wisdom awaits the earnest seeker, which can be obtained not through dogma or secondhand teachings but only through a highly personal pursuit and an epiphanic personal experience called gnosis, from a Greek word meaning "knowledge."

Because its precepts clashed with mainstream Christianity, Gnosticism went underground in a newly Christianized Rome, circa 325. "Other Christian groups and the Roman government outlawed it and persecuted its adherents," explained Mark H. Pritchard, a writer and teacher and the founder of an international group known as the Gnostic Movement. "It was eventually taught undercover until it pretty much disappeared."

Mark H. Pritchard.

Yet interest reawakened after twelve long-buried papyrus codexes containing ancient Gnostic texts were unearthed in Egypt in 1945. Modern-day adherents practice meditation, chant mantras, and explore the astral plane — while most folks would be startled to learn that 21st-century Gnosticism even exists.

"It is around," said Pritchard, who was brought up Catholic but was fascinated with the paranormal throughout his childhood. "You just have to go and search for it, unlike many faiths which have a larger, more visible presence." He became convinced while young that "the real message of Jesus had been altered and that much of his message was personal and had a lot to do with inner change."

Known as the Nag Hammadi Library, the 1945 discoveries "contain teachings of Jesus and his disciples not found in the Bible, and their rediscovery has allowed us to study these teachings again," Pritchard said. "So just as the Gnostics of ancient times did, we're able to not only study what Jesus taught but practice and experience what it has to offer ourselves, and this is what Gnosticism has always been about."

Although he senses a strong bond with early Gnostics, his faith feels anything but outdated or arcane. "Gnosis is a very practical teaching. It is practiced in everyday life and it can be applied to any situation in any society or moment in time," he asserts. "It is in fact a very effective and useful aid in combating the stresses and complexities we face in modern times." A Thursday, January 7 presentation at the **San Francisco Bay Area Gnostic Centre** (3201 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) addresses psychology as a spiritual tool.

As for the reactions from non-Gnostics when he tells them what he is, "usually it's about the same as they would have to anything that is different to their own faith," Pritchard said. "The difference with Gnosis, however, is that most people don't know what it is." 7:30 p.m., free. GnosticWeb.com/Berkeley-Gnostic-Center

— Anneli Rufus

To share this story, go to ebx.ly/gnostic

HEALTH & WELLNESS

AIDS Project of the East Bay The regional County organization [illegible] free HIV counseling and testing, support groups, case management services, assistance with benefits, transportation, and emergency housing, emergency food vouchers, and more. Volunteer opportunities available. [illegible] AIDS Project of the East Bay, 1755 Broadway, Oakland. 510-663-7979, APEB.org.

Bay Street Stroller Strides Fitness program for moms [illegible] power walking, jogging, body toning, and strength and flexibility training [illegible] baby. [illegible] 800-655-6295 [illegible] StrollerStrides.net/[illegible] Fridays, 9:30 a.m., first class is free; $129 for a 10-class pass. Old Navy, 5623 Bay St., Emeryville.

Harry's Ride: Salvation Army A monthly health van where a doctors provide immunizations, health education, check-ups, blood pressure checks, and [illegible] screenings, entirely free to children. [illegible] physician is [illegible] MD. Please bring your child's yellow immunization card. First Wednesday of every month, 5:30-7 p.m. 510-444-4386. Salvation Army, 2794 Garden St., Oakland. 510-437-9437. SalvationArmyUSA.org.

Harry's Ride: Oakland Elizabeth House A mobile health van where doctors provide immunizations, health education, check-ups, blood pressure checks, and head [illegible] screenings entirely free to children. [illegible] physicians are [illegible] and [illegible]. Please bring your child's yellow immunization card. Second Wednesday of every month, 5:30-7 p.m., 510-444-4320. Oakland Elizabeth House, 6423 Colby St., Oakland. 510-658-1380. [illegible]

Quit Smoking Workshop Tobacco treatment specialists from the Mayo Clinic offer a new approach to stopping smoking. Call 888-866-0813 to register. Mon., Jan. 11, 6-7 p.m.; Wed., Jan. 13, 12:30-1:30 p.m., free. Women's Health Center, 1656 N California Blvd., Walnut Creek.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Mindfully Resolving Conflicts Level 1 Steffey Seminars & Consulting presents methods for defusing conflicts and fostering better communication. For info, visit SteffeySeminars.com/[illegible] Fri., Jan. 8, 7-9 p.m., Sat., Jan. 9, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., Jan. 10, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. $175-$175. Quan Yin Training Center, 2311 8th St., Berkeley.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Coping and Thriving After a Diagnosis of Cancer Call 510-869-[illegible] to register. Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Alta Bates Medical Center Summit Campus, 450 30th St., Oakland. 510-869-8736.

Introduction to the Jewish Experience Part 1 of [illegible] series covers the Torah, Tanakh & Midrash, Jewish Prayer, the Prayer Book, and anti-Semitism. First Wednesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m. Continues through Feb. 24. [illegible] College, 12500 Campus Dr., Oakland. 510-531-4911. Merritt.edu.

Living Judaism Eight-session course teaches Hebrew and meditation. Mondays, [illegible] p.m. Continues through Feb. 15. $140-$190. Chochmat [illegible], 2215 Prince St., Berkeley. 510-704-9687. Chochmat.org.

Wednesday the Mind-Body Connection Four-class workshop for cancer survivors. Call 510-869-8833 for information. Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month, 1:15-2:30 p.m., free. Alta Bates Medical Center Summit Campus, 450 30th St., Oakland. 510-869-8735.

YOGA & BODYWORK

Chakra Healing Yoga Lunchtime 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., $2-$10. Piedmont Yoga Street, 3966 Piedmont Ave., Oakland.

Live Music and Vinyasa Class Join Shakti Donnahan and [illegible] for a [illegible] vinyasa class with live music. First Thursday of every month. 7th Heaven Yoga, 2820 7th St., Berkeley. 510-665-4300. www.7thheavenyoga.com.

Sivananda Yoga Day Sixth anniversary celebration features yoga classes for all levels, meditation and kirtan (chanting), [illegible], a yogic brian lunch, Ayurveda and Sanskrit workshops, spiritual talk courses, and an Hindu Indian classical Street performance by [illegible]. Register. Sat., Jan. 9, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., free. Vishnu-Devananda Yoga Vedanta Center, 1034 Delaware St., Berkeley. 510-273-2447. www.vishnuyoga.org.

PICKS

Sivananda Day

Affiliated with [illegible] Sivananda yoga centers founded by Swami Vishnu-devananda around the world, the Vishnu-devananda **Yoga Vedanta Center** (1034 Delaware St., Berkeley) celebrates its **sixth anniversary** on Saturday, Jan. 9, with a full day of free classes, workshops, and other activities, including meditation, kirtan call-and-response chanting, an Odissi dance performance, and an ayurveda lecture. 9 a.m.-5:45 p.m., free. VishnuYoga.org. *—Anneli Rufus*

Qigong Workshop

Letting energy — what the Chinese call qi — flow through you, guided by meditation and slow directed movement — or no movement at all. At the **Hillside Club** (2286 Cedar St., Berkeley) on Saturday Jan. 9, a **qigong workshop** open to beginners and practitioners at all levels features spine-stretching floorwork and traditional techniques done while standing, resting, and walking. 9:30 a.m., $30-$35. HillsideClub.org. *—A.R.*

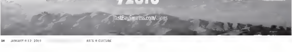
New Year's Non-Diet Resolution

You want to lose weight in 2010, but the strategies you've tried in previous years didn't work. On Saturday or Sunday, Jan. 9 and 10, at **My Weigh** (290 Third St., Suite 2, Oakland), the **New Year's Non-Diet Resolution** helps you identify your "behind-the-food" issues, earn coping tools and basic nutrition, and practice exercises with the help of an art therapist, psychotherapist, dietitian, and other experts. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., $350. MyWeigh-FamilyTherapy.com. *— A.R.*

Krav Maga Open House

Adapted from street fighting skills acquired by a boxer who used them in the Bratislava ghetto during the Holocaust, Krav Maga is a form of hand-to-hand combat that was later refined as a self-defense method by the Israel Defense Forces. An **open house** at **Berkeley Krav Maga Training Center** (1792 Tenth St.) on Sunday, Jan. 10 features free classes for kids and adults. 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m., free. BerkeleyKravMaga.com. *— A.R.*

A smart look at what the dailies are saying.



AQUARIUM AGE

PROCEED WITH CAUTION IN 2010

For the week of January 6-12, 2010

By Ralfee Finn

The first working week of 2010 began with a strange astral disconnect, so don't be dismayed if expectations about a fresh start to the New Year seem impossible to actualize. In one dimension of the holographic planetary picture, a strong current of change motivates the desire to shift attitudes and behavior, but another equally strong current insists on introspection before innovation. While these two forces don't directly oppose each other, their combined influence could cause confusion about where time and energy might be best spent. A third, equally powerful stream motivates a practical attitude toward plans that's guaranteed to yield tangible results, but that strong urge to "make it so" clashes with a paralyzing need for perfection. The remedy for this would be to take no unnecessary action and to use this time to sort through priorities with an eye toward organizing time and energy.

A Sun/Uranus sextile supports creativity and the need to break free from limitation. This is a positive signature that's sure to motivate resolutions aimed at self-improvement. Just be aware: This combination can also stimulate impulsive decisions you might later regret, so try to think before you leap into or out of situations capable of miring you in lasting consequences.

The good news is that Mercury Retrograde, in effect until January 15, is an invitation to spend at least a little time considering the consequences before initiating anything new. Mercury Retrograde is a great time for review, reflection, and reconsideration about what's already in motion. Mercury is Retrograde in Capricorn, an exceedingly practical Sign, and it is currently conjunct the Sun and Venus. A Mercury/Sun conjunction can translate into a lack of objectivity, and when you add Venus to the mix, that already slightly skewed point of view concentrates on concepts of love. There are two problems with this configuration. First, as Mercury moves away from Venus, it moves into conjunction with Pluto, a position that could turn some of those amorous ideas obsessive or compulsive; and second, Saturn squares Pluto and Mercury, a position that's fraught with impatience and the tendency to fixate on the flaw. This Mercury/Saturn/Pluto combination is in effect until January 25, and during this phase it would be wise to avoid harsh, judgmental pronouncements, especially if those statements foster polarization as a solution to what ails.

But it's Mars Retrograde that skews the week toward strange. Mars, like Mercury, drives the mechanics of daily life, and its let's-get-it-done vigor is never happy moving behind rather than ahead. What worsens this retrograde position is an absence of direct contact with any planet other than the Moon, a condition that's likely to translate into a deepening sense of personal frustration and is certain to erupt emotionally.

There wasn't a lot of time during the holidays to reflect on the year that was ending or to clarify expectations for the future, but there is still time and opportunity for a thoughtful and thorough approach to both.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon sign, read that, too.

ARIES While it may not be easy to corral the seemingly disparate threads of daily life, there are opportunities for you to gain greater clarity about how to organize your career. Use this window wisely and you'll make solid progress.

TAURUS You're reviewing and consolidating systems of every ilk. Internal as well as external. As you sort through the various categories, pay special attention to what brings you joy, and make that a priority.

GEMINI The best way through the current situation is to release the need to control the outcome. Yes, it is easier said than done—but for the sake of sanity, it might be worth a try.

CANCER While acceptance may feel like capitulation, it can also be a position of strength — especially when acknowledging reality helps you to find transformative solutions.

LEO You won't need provocation to roar in the wind, so rather than instigating a confrontation to justify releasing your frustration, find healthy ways to spend your excess energy.

VIRGO Brooding over what you cannot control will not produce a positive result. Considering previously unexamined creative options could produce significant change.

LIBRA It may not be easy to relax with friends, especially if you have an expectation that those you love will be able to allay your fears about the future. Rather than relying on others for a positive attitude, create your own.

SCORPIO You will need extra time and energy, plus extraordinary patience, as work-related projects suffer from delays and detours. So do whatever it is you do to stay calm, and then simply get to work.

SAGITTARIUS The focus is on what you believe about money and how those beliefs are related to your actions. Be willing to witness your behavior objectively, and you'll learn a lot about how to transform your situation.

CAPRICORN As you share your thoughts on various subjects, remember to respect others' opinions. A thoughtful exchange of perspectives offers a positive model for others.

AQUARIUS Be prepared for relationship review as several personal and professional partners reappear. You don't necessarily have to engage; you need only be willing to process.

PISCES Be prepared for repetition, particularly at work, where you're likely to be doing the jobs of others. Rather than resenting this assignment, embrace it, and you'll emerge from this phase with the recognition you deserve. ●

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For More Info

Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-3264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2009 by Ralfee Finn

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PLEASE PASS THE PERSIAN

I Squared's Iranian-Italian fusion menu succeeds, but would benefit from more Middle Eastern fare.

By Matthew Stafford

Considering the dearth of Persian restaurants in the Bay Area, it's something of a disappointment that I Squared, a year-old Iranian-Italian fusion restaurant in Rockridge, doesn't embrace its Middle Eastern side more strongly. Yes, the setting is attractive in a sleek and cool sort of way, the vibe is welcoming, and the food is uniformly delectable. But the glories of Persian cookery — the baked and layered rice dishes, the fragrant stews of mint, chickpeas, sumac, and quince, the yogurt soups and onion salads and rice water sherbets — would make a striking addendum to the venue's simple menu of kabobs, pots, and pasta. Where are baghali polo (dill-scented rice with fava beans and lamb shank) and fesenjoon (walnuts, pomegranate, and spiced meatballs), two classic dishes that have disappeared from I Squared's menu?

Yet ultimately these are minor quibbles. Owners Sadri Modjiead and Tanya Andersen (proprietors of the Hudson Bay Cafe right next door) have created a friendly neighborhood destination where locals and savvy out-of-towners can enjoy an exceptional meal for a reasonable price and give their taste buds a pleasant jolt or two along the way. Chef Nory Madjlessi, a veteran of LoCoco's Italian restaurant and his mother's Persian kitchen, handles both sides of the menu with aplomb, striking a balance between delicacy and gusto in pasta and basmati alike.

The dining room is spare in a Japanese manner, with butcher-block tables, a stainless-steel counter, and a simple dark-wood/lime green color scheme. Seating is available at the night at several cozy tables, and big windows look out on a rather festive stretch of College Avenue. The hard, shiny surfaces are softened by indirect wall lighting, commodious paper-lantern shades, affable service, and the venue's hip, casual ambiance.

Begin your meal with the sautéed mushrooms, delicately flavored buttons and stems in a rich, peppery sauce of cream, garlic, white wine, and Parmesan cheese absolutely ideal for dunking and sopping with a hunk of the house sourdough. Or opt for the I Squared Salad, a beautifully balanced mish-mash of textures and flavors featuring lush avocado, roasted sweet corn, mixed greens, a light vinaigrette, and a healthy dollop of warm, puckery goat cheese. Best of all was the soup of the day, a three-bean bowl with the heft and spirit of a fine Texas chili and the intricate flavors of a Persian khoresh. Rich and meaty with potato, pintos, red beans, garbanzos, and chunks of beefsteak, it made for one stimulating meal-opener.

I Squared
5403 College Ave., Oakland
510-658-4400, i2squared.com
Cash, MasterCard, Visa
Hours: Tue.-Sun. 5-10 p.m.
Reservations accepted

Sample Menu

Steak and Three-Bean Soup	$7
Sautéed Mushrooms	$6
Cabbage Wraps	$12
I Squared Kabob	$17
Linguine with Prawns	$14

One favorite entrée came from the Italian side of the menu. The linguine salsa rosa combined tender, buttery noodles with a hint of pesto, a trace of garlic, plenty of cream and grated Parmesan, a house-made marinara sauce rich with tomatoes that had no business being so ripe and sweet five days after the Winter Solstice, and half a dozen tender, juicy jumbo prawns that tasted like they'd been pulled out of the bay five minutes earlier. Four varieties of chelow kabob, the national dish of Iran, are offered on the menu's Persian side: prawn, filet mignon, ground beef, and chicken. The ground beef version (koobideh kabob) featured patties of lightly spiced, almost creamy hamburger meat skewered and broiled; despite all expectations and previous experiences, the chicken kabobs were wonderfully tender and succulent, with a hint of lemon and saffron to boot. Both kabobs were served with the traditional accompaniments: a perfectly charred beefsteak tomato and that fluffy, delicate Persian rice. (The secret: soak it, drain it, steam it.) The specialty of the house, though, is the cabbage wrap, the kitchen's sole foray into Iranian-Italian fusion. Tender cabbage leaves are stuffed with rice, cumin, cinnamon, and ground lamb as well as Mediterranean tarragon and the kitchen's luscious marinara sauce. The result is spicy, sweet, citrusy, creamy, hearty, and comforting all at once.

The linguine salsa rosa was our favorite entrée

Chris Duffey

There are only a few options for vegetarian diners on the menu. Among the meatless starters are the I Squared Salad and the sautéed mushrooms as well as a spinach salad with cranberries, walnuts, and feta and naan-o-panir-o-sabzi, a platter of pita bread, yogurt, basil, and tomatoes. The only meat-free entrée is an eggplant parmigiano with fresh mozzarella.

The twenty-item wine list is evenly split between California and Italian vintages of varying distinction, most of them in the $30 to $50 range. Fifteen are available by the glass. There also are ten bottled beers, including several tasty Trappist ales and five selections from the estimable Yorkshire brewery Samuel Smith (try the organic cider with your cabbage wraps).

The dessert menu features three items: scoops of vanilla and raspberry ice cream (both perfectly worthwhile) and tiramisu, which was one of the best dishes of the evening. Served parfait style in a tall glass, it was all soft, creamy texture, the lady fingers absorbing and then becoming the cream, the pleasing mascarpone and egg yolk, the rum warming the taste buds, and the cocoa and espresso adding their own vivid accents. It was a lip-smacking ending to an entirely satisfactory meal — but would a little mirza qasemi be too much to ask?

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ALAMEDA

[illegible] 1544 Webster St., Alameda, 510-523-2220. (Italian) $$$
Angelfish 863 Island Dr., Suite C-2, Alameda, 510-749-0400. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$
Asena 2508 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-4100. (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Organic/Sustainable) $$
BarCotto 2319 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-5862. (California Cuisine) $$$
[illegible] Broiler 1518 Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-769-1533. (Diner) $
Dragon Rouge 2534 Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-521-1180. (Vietnamese) $-$$
Everett & Jones Barbeque 1539 Main St., Alameda, 510-864-0146. (Barbecue) $$
Havana 1518 Park St., Alameda, 510-521-9120. (Cuban) $$
[illegible] 1213 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-1011. (Tapas/Small Plates) $
[illegible] 1449 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-8711. (Mexican) $$
The New Zealander [illegible] Webster St., Alameda, 510-769-8555. (Brewpub/English/Pub/New Zealander/Organic/Sustainable) $
Ole's Waffle Shop 1507 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-9300. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $
Pappo 2320 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-337-9100. (California Cuisine) $$$
Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300. (German/Austrian) $$
Sushi King 1400 Park St., Alameda, 510-523-5888. (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Yume Sushi 1428 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-7141. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY SOLANO

[illegible] 1493 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-1217. (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$
Ajanta 1888 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-4373. (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1591 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-8185. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
Bua Luang 1166 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-527-8288. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $
[illegible] 1841 Solano Ave., Berkeley, (510) 526-8818. (Vietnamese) $$
Cactus Taqueria 1881 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-1881. (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 1368 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-0888. (Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
[illegible] 1150 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-3300. (Seafood) $$
Christopher's Nothing Fancy Cafe 1019 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-3185. (Mexican/Southwestern) $-$$
Fatapple's 7525 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3433. (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$
[illegible] 1558 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-559-9096. (Mexican/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable/Latin American/Tapas, Small Plates) $$-$$$
[illegible] 909 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-9011. [illegible] $
Ici 2948 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-6054. (Bakery/California Cuisine/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $$
[illegible] Organic Kitchen 1017 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-1820. (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 1800 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2500. (Italian/Pakistani) $$
[illegible] 1787 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1844. (Chinese) $$
Lalime's 1329 Gilman St., Albany, 510-527-9838. (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Lao Thai Kitchen 1490 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-558-3276. (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Southern/Soul Food/Thai/Burmese) $
[illegible] 1305 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-8055. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
[illegible] 895-827 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-2552. (Family/Italian) $$$
[illegible] 1568 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-[illegible]. (Family/Organic/Sustainable/California Cuisine) $$-$$$
[illegible] 1110 Solano Ave., Albany, (510) 527-4051. (French) $$
[illegible] 1477 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-2338. (Chinese) $$
Rivoli 1539 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2542. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
[illegible] 1645 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-3375. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$
[illegible] Gourmet 1187 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-[illegible]. (Middle Eastern) $
[illegible] 1137 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-527-[illegible]. [illegible] $$
Taqueria Talavera 1561 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-6565. (Mexican) $
[illegible] 1111 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-525-7000. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$
[illegible] Bistro 1735 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-8300. (Tapas/Small Plates/Vietnamese) $$
Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950. (Pizza) $-$$

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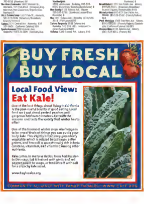
BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

Alborz Persian Cuisine 2142 Center St., Berkeley, 510-848-8817. (Middle Eastern/Persian) $$
Andy and Cindy's Thai Kitchen Berkeley Saturday Farmers Market, Berkeley, 510-834-3256. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen 2261 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6900. (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$
[illegible] 2103 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-4035. (Pizza) $
Bangkok Thai Cuisine 1650 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-8480. (Thai/Burmese) $
Brazil Fresh Squeeze Cafe 2161 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-5031. (Brazilian/Grill/South American) $
Cafe Tibet 2020 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5953. (Tibetan) $-$$
La Cascada 2164 Center St., Berkeley, 510-704-9588. (Mexican) $
[illegible] Cafe 1602 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1430. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $
Indian Curry [illegible] 2136 Oxford St., Berkeley, (510) 845-0569. (Indian/Pakistani) $
Henry's Publick House & Grille 2600 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-809-4132. (California Cuisine) $$
International House 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-9490. (Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Sustainable) $
Jayakarta 2026 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-0684. (Southeast Asian) $-$$
Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277. (Brewpub/Pizza/Music Venues/Bars) $$
[illegible] 2101 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. [illegible] $-$$
[illegible] International Sports Cafe 2080 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-705-9400. (American/Brewpub) $$
The Mint Leaf 2112 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-7900. (Indian/Pakistani) $$
La Note 2377 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1535. (Breakfast/Brunch/French) $$-$$$
Oscar's 1890 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2164. (American/Diner) $
[illegible] Thai [illegible] 1923 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1888. (Thai/Burmese) $-$$
Pie in the Sky 2124 Center St., Berkeley, 510-848-8678. (Pizza) $
[illegible] 1903 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2348. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$
Pomegranate 1661 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-666-1887. (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$
[illegible] 2068 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-9687. (Japanese/Sushi) $
[illegible] 2058 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-3951. (Indian/Pakistani) $
Taste of the Himalayas 1700 Shattuck Ave., Suite A, Berkeley, 510-849-4863. (Indian/Pakistani) $$
Top Dog [illegible] Center St., Berkeley, 510-849-[illegible]. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 2021 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-4300. (African) $$
Tuk Tuk Thai Cafe 2466-2468 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-6300. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Vietnamese) $-$$
Turkish Kitchen 1986 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-9200. (Middle Eastern) $$
Udupi Palace 1901 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6600. (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Venus 2327 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-5950. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Burgers/Sandwiches/American/Mexican/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$$
Zabu Zabu [illegible] Addison St., Berkeley, 510-8[illegible]. (Japanese/Sushi) $$$
Zatar 1981 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1981. (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

BERKELEY NORTH

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2827. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
Cafe Gratitude 1730 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 415-824-4652 ext. 3. (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
Casa Latina 1805 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-8111. (Bakery/Mexican) $
[illegible] Restaurant 1841 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1400. (Mexican) $-$$
César 1515 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0222. (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$
Cha-Am 1543 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-9664. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$
Cha-Ya 1686 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-1213. (Japanese/Sushi/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
Chez Panisse 1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5525 downstairs/510-548-5049 cafe. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$
[illegible] 1133 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. [illegible] $$$
Fatapple's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-526-2260. (Bakery/Breakfast, Brunch/Diner) $-$$
Gioia Pizzeria 1586 Hopkins St., Berkeley, 510-528-4692. (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $
Gregoire 2109 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-883-1893. (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Imperial Tea Court 1511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-8888. (Chinese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
[illegible] 1785 Shattuck Ave.



Local Food View:
Eat Kale!

One of the best things about living in California is the year-round bounty of good eating. Local food isn't just about perfect peaches and gorgeous heirloom tomatoes. Eat with the seasons and taste the variety that winter has to offer!

One of the foremost winter crops also happens to be one of the best things you can put in your body: kale. This slightly bitter deep green leafy vegetable, which is related to cabbages, collar greens, and broccoli, is exceptionally rich in beta carotene, vitamin K, and vitamin C among other nutrients.

Kale comes in many varieties, from Red Russian to Dinosaur. Eat it braised with garlic and red pepper, add it to soups, or tenderize it with salt for a crunchy kale salad.

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

eVe

1960 University Ave., Berkeley 510-868-0735. Chefs/co-owners Christopher and Veronica Laramie met as students at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. They designed this little treasure box a sleek black white-and-lime interior shown to the Chulucanas pottery from Veronica's native Peru. And they created a constantly changing menu on which each dish costs $12. Its avant-garde aesthetic, throbbing trance music and [illegible] wine list, plus the fact that the chefs appear tableside to explain each dish, renders eVe not just a restaurant but a kind of theater/party/potluck, in which it's all about the fusion combinations. A celery-root soup, for example, bears subtly shards, smoky sunken nuggets of Spanish chorizo, the reticent sheer of shallots and cranberries, and an aroma imparted by bay-leaf-tea foam. Even if you love what you've ordered, you might never have it here again, as the Laramies change their menu every few days. $$

Meritage at the Claremont

Serving what executive chef Josh Thomsen calls "seasonal farm-to-table cuisine" at the Claremont Hotel Club & Spa, Meritage commands one of the East Bay's most historic and highly prized views, a supersize panorama that starts with tennis courts and venerable Canary Island palms, then displays Berkeley as a glittering fairy-tale village. Its dinner menus feature locally sourced dishes paired with wines in at least six different categories. But Meritage's most popular meal is its glorious Sunday champagne brunch. A guilty pleasure of buffets is that they don't just let you eat your fill. They let you eat, together, foods that society decrees should never meet. At chump buffets, this means cheese [illegible] mole and chili rice. At Meritage, it means brush [illegible] and Chinese-steamed water-chestnut dumplings and prime rib. $$

Marzano on College

Soul-satisfying Southern Italian food is [illegible] at this casual and inexpensive yet handsomely appointed Rockridge destination. Braised meatballs with chard are juicy and tasty; chicory salad is bright with pear, pomegranate, and blue cheese; the seafood stew is the very definition of abundance. Thin-crusted Neapolitan pizzas are the house specialty (try the pumpkin-fontina-pancetta kale varietal). Desserts include the Straus Organic soft serve with your choice of toppings (rosemary honey, balsamic reduction, and sea salt among them). Fun vibe. Imaginative house cocktails; impressive all-Italian wine list. $$$

Bistro 1491

1491 Solano Ave., Albany 510-526-9601. This sunny, casual coffee shop serves big platters of popular favorites like burgers, salads, pasta, and roasted chicken at reasonable prices, and if the cuisine isn't always memorable, it's filling and nutritious and occasionally delicious. Best bets include the steamed mussels with basil and chorizo, the fettuccine with moist shredded duck and shiitake mushrooms, and the white chocolate and passion fruit mousse with pistachio garnish. Small, serviceable wine list. $$

Venus

2327 Shattuck Ave. (at Bancroft Way), Berkeley 510-540-5950. This popular neighborhood hangout serves abundant platters of inventive seasonal comfort food made from locally raised organic protein and produce. Highlights include pan-seared scallops with apple matchsticks, roasted squash salad with spinach, goat cheese and pumpkin seeds, a big juicy roasted chicken with pear-cranberry chutney, and skirt steak with seared polenta and a delectable chimichurri sauce. Get the pumpkin cheesecake for dessert. The wine list features several biodynamic or organically raised vintages. Affable, attentive service. $$$

The Crossroads

2415 Bowditch St., Berkeley 510-643-8303. It's Berkeley's biggest restaurant, and you've probably never heard of it. Its fare spans the world. Its portions are limitless. Occupying UC Berkeley's first certified-green building, Crossroads is the university's largest student dining facility, but nonstudents can also eat here for a nominal fee. An all-organic salad bar and ever-present cold-cereal bar augment a wide selection of hot choices at every meal; a typical Friday-night dinner included salmon, boeuf bourguignon, "blackened" tofu steaks, thick-crust pizza, curried corn, egg noodles, tofu-with-feta Reuben sandwiches, and brown rice. Drink stations offer milk, sodas, juices, and teas; a frozen-yogurt dispenser flanks a case filled with freshly made desserts, many of them vegan. Don't you dare call this "institutional food." $

R&C

[illegible] Berkeley, 510-848-7100. (Italian) $$-$$$
[illegible] Taqueria 2511 B Shattuck Ave. [illegible] 510-540-4341 (Mexican) $
Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-3354 (Deli/Kosher/Halal/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Top dog 2503 Hearst Ave., Berkeley 510-843-1241 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Adagia 2700 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-647-2300 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market, Berkeley, 510-548-3333 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Cuisine of India 2565 Sacramento St., Berkeley 510-848-2684 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
La Cascada 2903 College Ave., Berkeley 510-704-8808 (Mexican) $
Finfine 3554 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-883-8187 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$
Holy Land 2965 College Ave., Berkeley 510-665-1672 (Middle Eastern) $
[illegible] 2404 [illegible] St., Berkeley 510-845-1540 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $
[illegible] 2917 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-2526 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$
[illegible] 2665 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-845-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$
[illegible] 2556 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1274 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$
[illegible] Bar & Cafe [illegible] Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-3532 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Rick & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2922 Domingo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8538 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$
[illegible] 2914 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-[illegible] (Chinese) $-$$
Smokehouse 3115 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-845-3640 (American) $
[illegible] [illegible] St., [illegible] 510-965-1385 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$
Top dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-5967 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 2533 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-841-8098 (Asian Fusion/Chinese/Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $$
The Vault 3250 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-655-9600 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$
Wat Mongkolratanaram 1911 Russell St., Berkeley 510-849-3419 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

BERKELEY WEST & EMERYVILLE

900 Grayson 900 Grayson St., Berkeley, 510-704-9900 (California Cuisine) $$
Bette's Oceanview Diner 1807 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-644-3230 (American/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$
[illegible] [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley 510-649-9763 (Bakery/Coffee/[illegible] Organic/Sustainable) $
Cafe Cacao 814 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6000 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$$
[illegible] 2703 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-204-9002 (French) $
Cafe M 1790 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-526-4420 (Bakeshop/Breakfast/Brunch) $$
Cafe Rouge 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$
[illegible] 1799 University Ave., Berkeley 510-849-4681 (Italian) $$$
[illegible] 1300 55th St., Emeryville, 510-923-[illegible] ([illegible]) $$
[illegible] 1453 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-548-7372 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Doyle Street Cafe 5515 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-547-1152 (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $
[illegible] [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley 510-841-9300 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
[illegible] Barbecue 1958 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley (510) 848-5061 (Barbecue) $$
[illegible] 1401 University Ave., Berkeley, (510) 841-6205 (Italian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
[illegible] 1820 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$
IKEA 4400 Shellmound St., Emeryville, 510-420-4532 (Scandinavian/Furniture & Home Furnishings) $
Indus Village 1920 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-6959 (Indian/Pakistani/Kosher/Halal) $
Jamaican Best 2967 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-[illegible] (Caribbean) $
Jimmy Bean's 1290 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-528-3435 (Bakeshop/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Juan's Place 941 Carleton St., Berkeley 510-845-6904 (Mexican) $-$$
Kabana 1106 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3355 (Indian/Pakistani/Kosher/Halal) $
Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-845-1652 (Pizza/Art Galleries) $
Lois the Pie Queen 851 60th St., [illegible] 510-658-5616 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$
[illegible] 2320 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-858-[illegible] (Mexican/[illegible]) $
[illegible] [illegible] 40th St., Emeryville, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$
[illegible] [illegible] Vine St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $
Priya Indian Cuisine 2072 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-644-2977 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$
[illegible] 900 Heinz Ave., Berkeley 510-841-[illegible] (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$
Rudy's Can't Fail Cafe 4081 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-594-[illegible] (American/Diner) $-$$
[illegible] 3621 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-541-[illegible] (Southern/Soul Food) $$
Sea Breeze Market and Deli 598 University Ave., Berkeley 510-486-8802 (Deli/Seafood) $
Sketch 1809A Fourth St., Berkeley 510-665-5650 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $
[illegible] [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-204-[illegible] (Vegetarian/Vegan) $
[illegible] Bar & Grill 5862 Doyle St., Emeryville 510-652-6151 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
Vik's 726 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-4412 (Indian/Pakistani/Snack/Street Food) $

CONCORD MARTINEZ & PLEASANT HILL

[illegible] [illegible] Clayton Rd., [illegible] 925-[illegible] (Persian/South [illegible]) $-$$
Berkeley Kebab 2939 Ygnacio Valley Blvd., Concord 925-680-5488 (Afghan/Persian) $
[illegible] 1915 [illegible] St., [illegible] 925-[illegible]-3277 (Eastern European/German/Russian) $$
[illegible] and Hot Dogs 340 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill 925-687-8434 (Greek/Turkish) $
Hollywood Pizza, Pasta & More [illegible] St., Concord 925-521-[illegible] (Italian/Pizza) $
[illegible] Meats 2231 [illegible] Ave., Pleasant Hill 925-798-2030 (Barbecue/Deli) $
[illegible] Custom Meats [illegible] Industrial Way, Concord 925-686-[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $
[illegible] Hawaiian Barbecue [illegible] Crescent Dr., Pleasant Hill (925) 681-2151 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $
[illegible] [illegible] Willow Pass Rd., Concord 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $$
La Toscana 1151 Salvio St., Ste. I, Concord 925-[illegible] (Italian) $$-$$$
Left Bank Brasserie 60A Crescent Dr., Pleasant Hill 925-288-1222 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
[illegible] Mexicano [illegible] Mt. Diablo St., Concord 925-691-8200 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $$
[illegible] [illegible] Dr., Concord 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $
Taqueria [illegible] [illegible] Monument Blvd., Suite B, Concord 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $

EL CERRITO RICHMOND & NORTH

[illegible] 10300 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito 510-526-[illegible] (Mexican) $
[illegible] 3848 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante 510-222-0807 (Italian/Peruvian/South American) $$
[illegible] [illegible] Pablo St., Richmond 510-524-[illegible] (Chinese) $-$$
[illegible] 3298A Pablo St., Richmond 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$$
[illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., [illegible] 510-787-[illegible] (American/Seafood) $$-$$$$
Hidden City Cafe 109 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-[illegible] (American/California Cuisine) $$
[illegible] [illegible] El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-524-4622 (Deli/[illegible]/Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $
[illegible] 10544 [illegible] San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$
[illegible] Custom Meats 3800 San Pablo Ave., Suite 1, Hercules, 510-724-2222 (Barbecue/Deli) $
Krung Thep 11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$
[illegible] Restaurant Delights 1577 Sycamore Ave., Suite F Hercules, 510-245-[illegible] ([illegible]) $
[illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-1223 (Vietnamese) $-$$
[illegible] [illegible] Dr., Pinole 510-[illegible] (Italian) $$
[illegible] Thai Restaurant 12200 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$
[illegible] 1561 Sycamore Ave., Unit 5 Hercules, 510-245-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$
[illegible] Parking lot at [illegible] 23rd St., Richmond (Mexican) $
[illegible] [illegible] 23rd St., Richmond, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $
Taqueria La Bamba 12345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond 510-235-2288 (Central American/Mexican/Salvadoran) $
[illegible] 14620 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo 510-215-[illegible] (Central American/Salvadoran) $
[illegible] 844 Willow Ave., Hercules, 510-799-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/

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WINEAU

Pairing Wines with Crab

An array of lighter wines goes nicely with shellfish.

Crab season is in full swing in the Bay Area. And what dining experience can top an elemental feast of Dungeness crab drenched in butter and garlic, lubricated with a generous supply of wine? But which wine?

Fredi and I set out to answer that question at a New Year's Eve crab feast hosted by him and his wife, Wendy. We selected an array of whites, sparkling whites, and one light red to go with our feast. But as anyone who has ever shelled crab will understand, once we dived into the main course, our hands quickly became far too messy for any of us to write anything down. So all of our pairing notes came from our appetizer course of cheese, shrimp, scallops, and other light snacks. Happily, since shellfish dominated the pre-meal snacks, the pairings also worked well with our dinner.

Fredi and I were both quite impressed with the **2008 Bogle Sauvignon Blanc** ($8.99). Our host, a reluctant white wine drinker, thought it was a nice, crisp sipping wine, and I appreciated the absence of the perfumey aroma that often characterizes cheap California Sauvignon Blancs. Judy and Lisa found it initially bitter but ultimately fruity, and along with Wendy they commented on its oddly clear color.

Nancy liked the **2008 McManis Viognier** ($10.99) best and Wendy thought it paired nicely with our pan-seared scallops. Lisa said it was crisp and citrusy, and Fredi agreed, but thought it lacked complexity. I missed the tangy electricity that characterizes many Viogniers.

However, I thought the **2008 Librandi Cirò Bianco** ($9.99) tasted more like a Viognier than the McManis, and Judy and I both loved its tart, citrusy edge. Fredi liked the well-balanced acidity and flowery nose. Nancy was unimpressed.

The **2008 Hess Select Chardonnay** ($8.99) also was a crowd pleaser. I thought it was intriguingly smoky and Wendy liked its hints of oak. Several tasters thought it paired well with the evening's cheeses, which included some Manchego and a pungent blue. Lisa and Judy found it light and spicy, and Fredi detected a hint of sweetness and butter.

The evening's most popular wine was our lone red, the **2003 Windy Hill Pinot Noir** ($7.99). Judy and I loved its earthy, almost dirty flavor, and Lisa enjoyed its light, spicy tang. Wendy proclaimed it the best budget pinot she's ever found, although Craig thought it was over the hill.

As the New Year approached, we finished out the evening with two sparkling wines, a **Zonin Prosecco** ($5.99) and a **Segura Viudas Brut Reserva Cava** ($7.99). People's note-taking skills had definitely suffered by midnight, but both wines were deemed exceptional values and Judy called the Prosecco "bubbly bliss."

— *Stephen Buel*

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Sichuan) $$

Yuet Lee Oakland Restaurant [illegible] San Pablo Ave., [illegible] 510-528-6847 (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

Blue Orchid [illegible] Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $$-$$$

Chaat Cafe 3954 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-795-3400 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Union City, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $

[illegible] [illegible] Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City, 510-471-0357 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

De Afghanan Kabob House 37405 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-745-9599 (Afghan/Middle Eastern) $-$$

[illegible] Cafe 46816 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $

[illegible] Restaurant 906 Washington Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Belgian/Kebab/Deli) $

L&K Jamaican Jamaican 5800 [illegible] Rd., Union City, 510-274-8818 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

Little [illegible] [illegible] Union City, 510-491-[illegible] (Chinese) $

Little Sichuan Express 34420-B Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-608-0585 (Chinese) $

Lovely Sweets and Snacks 40031 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-657-[illegible] (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

Mango Grill 20158 [illegible] Plaza, Fremont, 510-797-7300 (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] 5200 Mowry Ave., [illegible], 510-797-2900 (California Cuisine/Italian) $$$

[illegible] Cafe & [illegible] Pizza [illegible] Fremont Blvd., #H, Fremont, 510-623-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani/Pizza) $

[illegible] Hot Pot Restaurant [illegible] Mowry Ave., Newark, 510-793-2888 (Chinese) $$

Salang Pass 37462 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-795-9200 (Afghan/Middle Eastern) $$

Udupi Palace 5988 New Park Mall Rd., Newark, 510-794-8400 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Woodlands 39203 Cedar Blvd., Newark, 510-494-9733 (Indian/Pakistani) $

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

A Street Cafe 1213 A St., Hayward, 510-582-2558 (American) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-276-7395 (Italian) $-$$

Buffalo Bill's Brewery 1082 B St., Hayward, 510-886-9823 (American/Brewpub) $

[illegible] 511 A St., [illegible], 510-[illegible] (Italian) $$

Cruisian 1280 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro, 510-895-8088 (Asian Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Curry [illegible] 26057 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-581-4900 (Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] & Jones Barbeque 296 A Street, Hayward, 510-581-2722 (Barbecue) $$

Grand Taipei 25101 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-785-7132 (Chinese) $$

Han Yang [illegible] Restaurant 22365 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Barbecue/Korean) $$

The [illegible] Ranch [illegible] Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-581-5522 (American/Steakhouse) $-$$

Hong Kong BBQ Restaurant 20818 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $

JJ's Restaurant and [illegible] 2637 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley, 510-886-0012 (Diner) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 27520 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Hawaiian) $

[illegible] 974 [illegible] St., Hayward, 510-538-[illegible] (Mexican) $$

La Palapa 1099 Merced St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $$

[illegible] Garden 20598 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Filipino/Southeast Asian) $-$$

The [illegible] 925 B St., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (American/Diner) $

[illegible] [illegible] B St., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Seafood) $$$

Original Mission Restaurant 1297 [illegible] St., San Leandro, 510-568-4750 (Mexican) $$-$$$

[illegible] Paradise 3522 Arden Rd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (American) $

Sam's Super [illegible] 15601 Hesperian Blvd., San Lorenzo, 510-278-[illegible] (American/Deli) $

Sweet Fingers Jamaican Restaurant 484 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-533-[illegible] (Caribbean) $$

Thai Satay 1370 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

[illegible] Sushi 1437 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-352-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Val's Burgers 2145 Kelly St., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (American/Diner) $

Vo's Restaurant 511 [illegible] St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $$

Yet Hai Ju Zang 27532 Foothill Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Korean) $

LAMORINDA

[illegible] Cafe [illegible] Sq., Suite 105, Orinda, 925-[illegible] (Greek/Turkish/Middle Eastern) $

Bo's Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-7133 (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 27 Bryant Way, Orinda, 925-254-2981 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

[illegible] Lafayette 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-[illegible] (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $-$$

La [illegible] Ristorante 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 101, Lafayette, 925-284-5282 (Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] Way, Orinda, 925-253-9857 (Chinese) $

Lily's House 1555 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-7588 (Chinese) $$-$$$

[illegible] Lafayette 3524 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-4422 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] 3500 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-298-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$

Postino 3565 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-299-8700 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] House Cafe [illegible] Moraga, 925-[illegible] (American) $-$$

[illegible] 581 Park St., Moraga, 925-377-[illegible] (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] [illegible] Way, Lafayette, 925-284-[illegible] (Italian/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

OAKLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ

[illegible] 489 9th St., Oakland, 510-251-8170 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] [illegible] 14th St., Oakland, 510-251-2153 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] Restaurant 350 Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Cambodian/Laotian/Seafood/Southeast Asian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] 12th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

La [illegible] 582 Seventh St., Oakland, 510-444-[illegible] (Mexican) $-$$

[illegible] of India [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-834-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] Super [illegible] 2534 Mandela Parkway, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Caffè 817 817 Washington St., Oakland, 510-271-7965 (Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Caffè [illegible] 1111 Broadway, Lobby Level, [illegible] Building, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] Deli 920 [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-444-8888 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] Bar-B-Que 3915 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-834-8516 (Barbecue/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] 8th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Seafood) $

La [illegible] 1007 Clay St., Oakland, 510-763-8495 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $$-$$$

Cock-A-Doodle Café 719 Washington St., Oakland, 510-465-5400 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 331 Eighth St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $

[illegible] Jones Barbeque [illegible], Oakland, 510-663-1550 (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] 1900 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-286-0100 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

La Furia Chalaca 310 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4206 (Peruvian/South American) $$$

Golden Lotus 1301 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-893-0383 (Chinese/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] Webster St., Oakland, 510-832-7661 (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

[illegible] 388 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $

House of Chicken & Waffles 444 Embarcadero W., Oakland, 510-836-4446 (American/Southern/Soul Food) $

[illegible] [illegible] 15th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $$

[illegible] 412 15th St., Oakland, 510-452-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$$

Jade Villa 800 Broadway, Oakland, 510-839-1688 (Chinese) $$

[illegible] Oakland Restaurant and [illegible] [illegible] Washington St., Oakland, 510-451-1561 (Cajun/Creole/Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $$

[illegible] 2431 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-832-1111 (African) $$

Legendary Palace 708 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-663-9188 (Chinese) $-$$

Levende East 827 Washington St., Oakland, 510-835-5585 (California Cuisine) $$$

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677 (Belgian/California Cuisine/French/Bar) $$-$$$

Miss Pearl's Jam House One Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7171 (Caribbean) $$$

[illegible] [illegible] Webster St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (American/Asian Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

Nellie's [illegible] 3rd St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Oyster Reef 1007 Embarcadero Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Seafood) $$$

[illegible] Oakland [illegible] Broadway Ave., Oakland, (Asian Fusion/Japanese/Sushi/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

[illegible] [illegible] Webster St., Oakland, 510-835-8375 (Vietnamese) $

Restaurant Peony 388 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-286-8866 (Chinese) $$$

[illegible] [illegible] 15th St., Oakland, 510-444-8424 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $-$$

Shanghai Restaurant 930 Webster St., Oakland, 510-465-6878 (Chinese) $-$$

Shashamane [illegible] Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$$

Souley Vegan 431 13th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Southern/Soul Food/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Spice Monkey [illegible] Washington St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] [illegible] 10th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $$

[illegible] [illegible] 8th St., Oakland, 510-836-[illegible] (Chinese) $

[illegible] [illegible] 9th St., Oakland, 510-444-[illegible] (Mexican/

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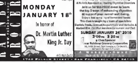
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Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Thy Ho 3445 12th St., Oakland, 510-836-6388 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Top dog 420 14th St., Suite B, Oakland, 510-839-1900 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Uncle Willie's Bar-B-Que and Fish 614 14th St., Oakland, 510-465-5200 (Barbecue) $-$$

Vo's Restaurant 59 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4690 (Vietnamese) $$

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200 (Japanese/Sushi/Bars/Music Venues) $$$

Yung Kee Restaurant 888 Webster St., Oakland, 510-839-1081 (Chinese) $

OAKLAND-EAST

Ba Le 1800 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-9800 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Cam Huong Restaurant 1722 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-444-2800 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Guadalajara's Restaurant 1111 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-534-4795 (Mexican) $

Oakland Garden 2072 5th Ave., Oakland, 510-238-6815 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Thai/Vietnamese) $

Los Cocos 1415 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-536-5079 (Central American/Salvadoran) $

La Costa Marisqueria 3125 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-8566 (Mexican) $

El Centenario 4356 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-8080 (Mexican) $-$$

Everett & Jones Barbeque 2676 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, (510) 533-0900 (Barbecue) $$

Full House Cafe 3129 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-530-2291 (American/Diner) $

El Guanaco Azteca 3848 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-530-2395 (Mexican) $

Huong Lan Cafe 1229 7th Ave., Oakland, 510-835-8486 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

La Pinkerie Cafe 558 East 12th St., Oakland, 510-455-1185 (American/Mexican/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$

New Pagolac 821 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-465-9636 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $$

Nieves Cinco de Mayo 3340 E. 12th St., Oakland, 510-534-8380 (Desserts/Ice Cream) $

Nomi Tea Garden 2030 Livingston St., Oakland, 510-698-4830 (Breakfast/Asian) $

El Ojo de Agua 3030 E. 12th St., Oakland (Mexican) $

Old Weang Ping Village 4217 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-450-8111 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Otaez Mexicatessen 3872 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-536-0909 (Mexican) $-$$

Phnom Penh House 3912 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible]-0989 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian) $

Pho Anh Dao 280 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-836-6921 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Pho Hoa Hung 2261 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-434-9185 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Pho Hoa Lao 1251 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-451-6868 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Pupuseria Lupita 3640 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-436-3451 (Central American) $

Southern Cafe 311 Broadway, Oakland, 510-625-9668 (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Tacos El Sol Corner of International Blvd. and High St., Oakland, no phone (Mexican) $

Taqueria Oakland 3659 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-4300 (Mexican) $

Taqueria Durango 3030 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-534-6480 (Barbecue/Mexican) $

Taqueria San Jose 3433 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-5148 (Mexican) $

Taqueria Sinaloa 2138 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-535-5206 (Mexican) $

Taqueria Sanchez 4348 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-8525 (Mexican) $

Thai Town 5300 29th Ave., Oakland, 510-532-5202 (Laotian) $$

La Torta Loca 1438 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-532-7105 (Mexican) $

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OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

Andy and Cindy's Thai Corner Saturday Grand Lake Farmers Market, Oakland, (415) 412-5300 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5819 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-7180 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Bay Wolf Cafe and Restaurant 3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6004 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Blackberry Bistro 4240 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1088 (Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Camino 3917 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5035 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

César Piedmont 4039 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-883-0222 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Cafe [illegible] 4125 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-1034 (French) $$

Coach Sushi 532 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-834-1888 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Di Bartolo 3308 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-451-0178 (California Cuisine) $$$-$$$$

Dopo 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3676 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] Fish 1248 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-645-0012 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Grégoire 4001 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-547-3444 (French) $-$$

Grinders Submarine Sandwiches 2000 Antioch Ct., Oakland, 510-339-3121 (American) $

Holy Land 677 Rand Ave., Oakland, 510-272-0535 (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $

Jong Ga House 372 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-7658 (Korean) $$

La Taza de Cafe 3000 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2373 (Spanish) $$

Luciano's Restaurant 5310 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-652-0222 (Italian/Pizza) $$

Oakland Ethiopian Restaurant 4371 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-420-1122 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $

Mezze 3407 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-663-3500 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Mijori Sushi 3250 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5888 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Prime Spot Bar & Grill 3411 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-268-1840 (Steak House) $$$

Spettro 3355 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-451-7738 (California Cuisine/Pizza) $$

Tropix 3814 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-2555 (Caribbean) $$

Z Cafe and Bar 2735 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2985 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Bars) $$

Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124 (Italian/Pizza) $$

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

À Côté 5478 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6469 (California Cuisine/French/Mediterranean/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5819 College Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0444 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cactus Taqueria 5642 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-6180 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Citron 5484 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5484 (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/French) $$$-$$$$

Flavors of India 2311 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-652-3405 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Garibaldis 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4000 (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Hiro's Sushi and Grill 5321 College Ave. #2, Oakland, 510-596-7388 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Khana Peena 5316 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-3207 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Marica 5301 College Ave., Oakland, 510-985-8388 (Asian Fusion/Seafood) $$-$$$

[illegible] 2994 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-652-6157 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Pho Yang 6048 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-3288 (Southeast Asian) $$

[illegible] 5099 Claremont Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5588 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$

Oliveto 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Oliveto Cafe 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356 (Italian/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$

Pizza Rustica 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-1601 (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

Soi4 Bangkok Eatery 5421 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-0889 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Somerset 5912 College Ave., Oakland, 510-428-1829 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

Top dog 5100 Broadway, Oakland, 510-601-8781 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Uzen 5415 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-7753 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Wood Tavern 6317 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-6607 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6385 (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

Addis Ethiopian Restaurant 6100 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3456 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Sunday Temescal Farmers Market, Oakland, (415) 412-5300 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Aunt Mary's Cafe 4640 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-9227 (Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Bakesale Betty 5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1213 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

Cafe Colucci 6427 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-7999 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Casserole House 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-6000 (Korean) $

Han Sang Ak 2115 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-663-5823 (Korean) $$

Dona Tomas 5004 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0522 (Mexican) $$$

Genova Delicatessen 5095 Telegraph Ave., Building A, Oakland, 510-652-7401 (Deli/Italian) $

Kang Song Gogi 3512 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2999 (Korean) $$

Koryo Sushi 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-594-0880 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Koryo Wooden Charcoal Barbecue 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6007 (Korean) $$

La Calaca Loca 5199 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0228 (Mexican) $

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 4799 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5350 (Pizza/Bars/Lounges) $

Mama's Royal Cafe 4012 Broadway, Oakland, 510-547-7600 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $

Marc 99 4035 Telegraph Ave., Oakland

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[illegible] 4820 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6810 (California Cuisine) $$

Nomad Cafe 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Music Venues) $

Ohgane Korean Restaurant 3915 Broadway, Oakland, 510-594-8300 (Korean) $$-$$$

[illegible] [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-595-5838 (Korean) $-$$

Pizzaiolo 5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-652-4888 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$

Pyung Chang Tofu House 4701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-658-9040 (Korean/Southeast Asian) $$

[illegible] 4823 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-654-5584 (Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $

Sahn Maru 4315 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-653-3366 (Korean) $-$$

[illegible] Barbeque House 2600 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-834-5757 (Korean) $-$$

Seoul Gom Tang 3801 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-597-9989 (Korean) $

[illegible] Pie & [illegible] Authentic Southern Cuisine 5710 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland 510-547-8143 (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Tanjia 4905 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-653-8691 (African/Moroccan/Spanish) $$$

[illegible] Za Zang 4390 Telegraph Ave., Suite B, Oakland, 510-652-3909 (Chinese/Korean) $

[illegible] Za Zang 3813 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-2298 (Chinese/Korean) $

WALNUT CREEK

Babushka Russian Deli & Restaurant 1475 [illegible] Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-210-0779 (Eastern European) $$

Bing Crosby's 1342 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek, 925-939-2464 (American/Steak House) $$$$

[illegible] 1306 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-407-8000 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Breads of India 1358 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7684 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Dragon 2000 1656 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek, 925-287-1288 (Chinese) $-$$

Ephesus Kebab Lounge 1701 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-945-8802 (Greek/Turkish/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

George's Giant Hamburger 1481 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-938-4888 (Diner) $

[illegible] 1500 [illegible] St., Walnut Creek, 925-938-6595 (California Cuisine/[illegible]) $$

[illegible] 1512 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-952-9858 (Vietnamese) $$

Kinder's [illegible] 1870 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-932-9383 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Lark Creek Walnut Creek 1360 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-1234 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] Il Mangia Bene 1210 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek, 925-938-2426 (Deli/Italian) $

[illegible] 1531 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible] (Chinese) $$

The Original Hickory Pit 1495 South Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-935-7450 (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $$

Prima 1522 North Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-935-7780 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] Ristorante & [illegible] 2900 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-947-6005 (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

[illegible] Tea House 1838 [illegible] Blvd., Walnut Creek, 925-287-8288 (Chinese) $$-$$$

Va de Vi Bistro & Wine Bar 1511 Mount Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek, 925-979-0100 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

Vic Stewart's 850 South Broadway, Walnut Creek, 925-943-5666 (Steak House) $$$-$$$$

Walnut Creek Yacht Club 1555 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek, 925-944-FISH (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Charles Chocolates Factory Tour Opportunity to watch chocolatiers in production followed by a Q&A. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. [illegible] Charles Chocolates Factory Store and Chocolate Bar, 6529 Hollis St., Emeryville. 510-652-4412. CharlesChocolates.com.

[illegible] de Fruitvale The Unity Council presents fresh produce and live music performances. First Thursday of every month. 5-8 p.m. free. Fruitvale Village, 3401 E. 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART), Oakland. 510-534-0900. UnityCouncil.org.

The Lighter Side of [illegible] Cuisine Low fat Mexican cooking class. Info at [illegible].com. Wed., Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m. $65. Piedmont Adult School, 800 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont. 510-594-2655. PiedmontAdultSchool.org.

Oyster Night Oyster specials, plus guest DJs. Mondays, [illegible] p.m. free. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With family grown fruits and vegetables, plus locally [illegible]. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Webster St. (at Haight Ave.) [illegible] Webster St., Alameda.

Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-6000. ShopBayfair.com.

Concord Farmers' Market With [illegible] selling locally-grown seasonal fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Todos Santos Plaza, Willow Pass Rd. and Grant St., Concord. 925-671-3464.

Danville Certified Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables, bedding plants, fresh breads, and specialty food items. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Railroad St. at Prospect St., Danville.

Farm Fresh Choice Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in culturally diverse and under-resourced neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3:45-5:45 p.m. 510-848-5784. [illegible] Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5850. CI.Berkeley.ca.us/[illegible].

Irvington Farmers' Market With vendors selling California-grown fruits and vegetables in season. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Bay St., at Fremont Blvd., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Fremont Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh California-grown fruits and vegetables. Located in the courtyard behind the main hospital. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Fremont, 39400 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market With vendors selling locally-grown California produce at the main entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Martinez Farmers' Market With locally-grown seasonal fruits and vegetables. Thursdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Permanente Martinez Medical Offices, 200 Muir Rd., Martinez.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente Union City Farmers' Market With fresh fruits, nuts, greens, vegetables, and flowers. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Medical Center Union City, 3553 [illegible] Rd., Union City.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market With vendors selling seasonal produce on the outdoor plaza. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a nursery, fresh flowers, an organic cheesemaker, bee products, fresh wild fish, farm and vegetables, nuts, butter, Italian cheese, fresh pasta, and seasonal surprises. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. [illegible] Circle at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel District Farmers' Market Sponsored and maintained by Oakland Food Connection, a nonprofit that works to promote nutritional awareness, access to healthy foods and the connections between people and our planet. The market includes certified organic produce from [illegible] Organic Farm based out of Salinas, CA and a youth-led prepared food kiosk called the Purple Lawn Cafe. For more info or to find out how to become a vendor, please contact Toni at [illegible] or call 510-482-1450. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel District Farmers' Market, 4175 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

North Shattuck Farmers' Market [illegible] all-organic produce and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. free admission. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Pinole Farmers' Market With local [illegible] and vendors selling fresh California-grown produce. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Fernandez Ave. at Pear St., Pinole.

Pleasanton Farmers' Market With [illegible] fruit and vegetables, plus Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosting cat and dog adoptions. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Pleasanton Farmers' Market, West Angela St., Pleasanton.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus musical programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible].

Temescal Farmers' Market California [illegible] Market offers seasonal produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, fresh-cut flowers, and more. Info: 510-745-7100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

Union City Farmers' Market [illegible] seasonal produce and seafood, plus a basketball court. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Old Alvarado/Cesar Chavez Park, Smith & [illegible] St., Union City.

PICK

Slow Food Potluck

Devoted to counteracting the Fast Food lifestyle, Slow Food is a member-supported national movement whose Berkeley chapter, founded by Alice Waters, is holding its annual open-to-the-public **New Year's Potluck** at the **Bread Project Headquarters** ([illegible] San Pablo Ave., Berkeley) on Saturday, Jan. 9. RSVP to Events@SlowFoodBerkeley.com and bring a dish to share, utensils and a plate. Noon, free. SlowFoodBerkeley.com

Anneli Rufus

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BAINGAN BACHARI Organic eggplant slices sautéed and then cooked in a sauce made with peanuts, sesame seeds, tamarind, coconut powder, cashew paste, ginger, garlic, and spices (Hyderabad) (Vegan)
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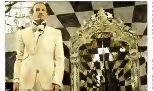
THE DEVIL AND TERRY GILLIAM

One endless journey (*The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*) and one non-stop moving pratfall (*Leap Year*)

By Kelly Vance



Heath Ledger in his final role: Tony, in *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*.

The *Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus* is a patented Terry Gilliam special: a remedial children's bedtime tale for anxious grown-ups. Gilliam, particularly when he's collaborating with writer Charles McKeown (*Brazil*, *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*), loves to construct panoramic morality plays with eye-candy visuals, variations on the eternal story of the struggle between good and evil — on a decidedly human scale, of course, despite the grandiose metaphors. *Imaginarium* fills the screen with Bob-dingnagian wonders, yet basically concerns itself with something as humble as the lingering regrets of a poor old carnie.

Doctor Parnassus (in a deceptively broad performance by Christopher Plummer) labors under a curse. Many years ago, he won a wager with the devil and was granted, or rather sentenced to, eternal life. We meet him and his entourage — daughter Valentina, aka "Scrumpy" (tremulously lovely Lily Cole), Dr. P's diminutive sidekick Percy (Verne Troyer), and a young actor/gofer named Anton (Andrew Garfield) — in their tattered caravan, moving from place to place in the derelict parts of contemporary London, putting on a curiously old-fashioned magic show for the rubes. They're constantly pestered by pugnacious drunks, the misapprehensions of ordinary people, and the police, but they persevere. It's their destiny.

Concomitant with Dr. P's immortality is the stipulation that he can foresee the future, but no one ever believes him. Like a scruffy bearded Cassandra, he perches unmoving in a fake trance (he's actually drunk) on the caravan's tiny stage while Anton inveigles passersby to come up, take a chance, and discover their true natures. All they have to do is pass through the Imaginarium, a flimsy-looking "magical mirror." Dr. P takes care to warn all comers: "What we do is deadly serious," but no one takes the proposition seriously until it's too late, and the truth is staring them in the face. In the end their minds are purified and so are their wallets, usually.

As he ingratiates with his troupe, the peripatetic Dr. P carries on a running philosophical debate with his old acquaintance Mr. Nick. Tom Waits, never better, plays Nick, aka the devil, as a Brechtian criminal dandy dripping with lust, in a Mack the Knife getup with his thinning hair dyed a gaudy red and a permanent leer on his face. Somewhere along the way their latest bet — first one to attract twelve disciples wins — has transmogrified into a quickie soul-scavenging contest. If Parnassus can save five souls from eternal damnation, he gets to retain his daughter Valentina. If Nick suckers five chumps, Valentina must become the devil's bride.

This dilemma takes a further historic turn when the Parnassus troupe discovers a man in a white suit hanging from a bridge one night. At last, someone more pathetic than any of them. As it turns out, the revived Tony (Heath Ledger) is the tonic that Dr. P's carnival of souls and Gilliam's movie needed.

As has happened before in the film biz, the late Ledger left one or two movie roles in the can when he died in 2008, and *Imaginarium* is now the last to be released. It was in production when Ledger passed away and substantial scenes had been shot with Tony joining the caravan, scenes too precious to be lost. So Gilliam drew three aces — Johnny Depp, Colin Farrell, and Jude Law, in succession — to portray Tony in the crucial sequences on the other side of the looking glass, the rationale being that when a person enters the Imaginarium, his or her soul can take several forms and even change faces. Voilà. Ledger's farewell part is one of his most poignant: the portrait of a man jerked back to life almost against his will.

Gilliam drenches all this in his most mind-blowing hallucinations since *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. And yet *The Imaginarium* contains the requisite germ of sadness and disappointment found in all of the ex-Monty Python's best work. People are stupid for the most part. Fantastic spectacles cannot disguise loneliness. Even one of the most hypnotically beautiful moonlit gondola rides in film history (it's right up there with the F.W. Murnau/Charles Rosher/Karl Struss moonlit marshland in *Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans*) love is not a sure thing, ever. The professor cries, "Don't go through the mirror!" but we can't help ourselves — it's in our nature to break on through. Life goes on. *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*, one of the very best movies of 2009, hits the road and keeps on going.

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus

Directed by Terry Gilliam. With Christopher Plummer, Heath Ledger, Tom Waits, and Lily Cole. Opens Friday.

Leap Year

Directed by Anand Tucker. With Amy Adams and Matthew Goode. Opens Friday.

Actor Amy Adams is in serious danger of overexposure, so it's a pleasure to report that her latest vehicle, director Anand Tucker's *Leap Year*, delays that inevitability by playing directly to Ms. Adams' strengths and letting her weaknesses run free like an Irish pig.

The plot is something Dr. Parnassus probably got bored with seven centuries ago. Anna (Adams), a professional real estate room-stager from Boston, arranges with her reluctant milquetoast cardiologist boyfriend Jeremy (Adam Scott) — the one who can't or won't pick up her hints to propose marriage — to meet in Dublin, where he's going to a medical conference.

But Anna decides to sneak off to Dublin early in time to take advantage of the Irish version of Sadie Hawkins Day, meaning that on the February 29 leap day, the gal is allowed to rope and hog-tie the guy. Off she sneaks, but klutzy Anna runs into a *Planes, Trains & Automobiles*-style series of comic travel setbacks, not least of which is her teaming up with a folksy Irish He-Man type named Declan (Matthew Goode, in a drastic change of pace from *A Single Man* and *Brideshead Revisited*) for a cross-country dash to Dublin. You can guess the rest.

Adams' peaches-and-cream complexion, red hair, and wide-eyed sheepishness fit right into the snowball "Oirishness" Anna encounters. Every time she accidentally destroys a pub, slips in the mud, hikes up a rocky hill in high heels to a romantic castle, or gets her Blackberry stolen by a local "eejit," we fully expect a rainbow to pop up with a leprechaun (perhaps Verne Troyer) stationed nearby. But if we squint hard and maybe take a nip of poitín with our popcorn, Adams actually manages to be charming in a thoroughly corn-corn way, a sweetly convincing Yankee mooncalf to set loose amid the bed and breakfasts of Tipperary. She walks on, with hope in her heart, and she'll never trip and stumble alone. ●

To share this story go to: [illegible]

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MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrew Grenwall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com.

OPENING

Crazy Heart Jeff Bridges gives a signature career performance as Bad Blake, [illegible]

[illegible]

Daybreakers [illegible]

I Found a Broom [illegible]

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus Terry Gilliam's [illegible]

[illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. [illegible]

Up in the Air

[illegible] McKeown (122 min.) (CWC, [illegible] CL, S)

Leap Year Anna, a [illegible] Amy Adams is having [illegible] to propose to her, so [illegible] Leap Day, February [illegible] [illegible] Anna [illegible] Steve Martin in *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* [illegible] Directed by Anand Tucker (*And When Did You Last See Your Father?*) [illegible] (95 min.) [illegible]

[illegible]

Broken Embraces [illegible]

finds the boys [illegible] 51-year [illegible] the Chipettes, and their [illegible] Bagdasarian Productions' [illegible] Directed by Betty Thomas (*Dr. Dolittle 2*, *I Spy*) [illegible] (92 min.) [illegible]

Armored Matt [illegible] close-knit crew of [illegible] guards [illegible] on an [illegible] job. Their simple plan turns to shit when one companion (Columbus Short) develops a conscience mid-heist; after that, the [illegible] This [illegible] takes a while to get moving but [illegible] in the third act by a whopping and [illegible] Make what you will of the fact that the good guy is an Iraq war vet and his [illegible] (Fred Ward) [illegible] Directed by Nimród Antal (*Kontroll*) [illegible] with Laurence Fishburne, Jean Reno and [illegible] (88 min.) [illegible]

Avatar Five years in the making, three hours in the [illegible] animating, writer-director James Cameron (*The Terminator*, *The Abyss*, *Titanic*) aims for epic awe with his story of rapacious earthlings invading the heavily jungled planet of Pandora and trying to [illegible] the tall, powerful, blue-skinned natives to [illegible] their minerals. The CGI visuals are certainly gorgeous [illegible] There's a good guy, a [illegible] Jake (Sam Worthington) [illegible] The military/industrial bad guys (Stephen Lang, Giovanni Ribisi) [illegible] (162 min.) [illegible]

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans [illegible] Cage [illegible] plus with gambling and [illegible] Herzog's [illegible] post-Katrina New Orleans [illegible] beginning of a new era [illegible] for Herzog [illegible] Let's hope so. Following Cage [illegible] Eva Mendes [illegible] Xzibit as a crime boss, Brad Dourif as a bookie, Jennifer Coolidge as a drunk, and [illegible] Val Kilmer as fellow cops. Also, an [illegible] a dog, and a pair of iguanas. But Cage's rogue detective is the [illegible] animal of all. A fascinating curiosity, and Cage's best [illegible] (121 min.) [illegible]

The Blind Side Based on the nonfiction book by Michael Lewis, this [illegible] tells the story of Michael Oher, a gigantic black teenager [illegible] West Memphis who was [illegible] by a wealthy white family [illegible]

ONGOING

2012 Roland Emmerich's *pièce de résistance* [illegible] of crumbling towers, collapsing [illegible] tidal waves [illegible] with John Cusack as a [illegible] while the world crashes [illegible] *The Day After Tomorrow* [illegible] (158 min.) [illegible]

3 Idiots [illegible]

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel [illegible]

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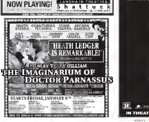

HEATH LEDGER
CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER
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who was drafted in the [illegible] round the year by the [illegible] Ravens. The story is inspiring and involves [illegible], but to tell it [illegible] Leigh Anne Tuohy (Sandra Bullock [illegible] performance), the [illegible] whose love and generosity helped [illegible] a [illegible] with [illegible] into a [illegible] young man with a promising [illegible]. Some will [illegible], and they may well be right, but [illegible] Kathy Bates, and [illegible] (125 min.). [illegible]

Broken Embraces (Los abrazos rotos) [illegible] Pedro Almodóvar [illegible] Almodóvar and [illegible] (Penélope Cruz) [illegible] (Blanca Portillo) [illegible] Almodóvar's writing. Also with José Luis Gómez. (127 min.) [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] (2004) [illegible] Susanne Bier [illegible]

Brothers An upright [illegible] (Tobey Maguire) ships off to Afghanistan and goes down in a helicopter crash, [illegible] (Jake Gyllenhaal) [illegible]. Jim Sheridan (*In America*) directed, with Sam Shepard, Bailee Madison, Mare Winningham, and Carey Mulligan (110 min.) [illegible]

Did You Hear About the Morgans? It's really about time for Hugh Grant to [illegible] play a character other than his [illegible]. Like maybe a ruthless hedge fund manager or a serial killer. But in [illegible] Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker [illegible] from New York City to the wide open spaces of Wyoming [illegible] Sam Elliott and his straight-shooter wife Mary Steenburgen [illegible] by Marc Lawrence (103 min.) [illegible]

Disney's A Christmas Carol Robert Zemeckis applies the 3-D motion-capture animation of *Beowulf* (2007) and *The Polar Express* (2004) to the well-worn [illegible] As a [illegible] But that [illegible] Jim Carrey (as Scrooge and the Christmas ghosts) and Gary Oldman (as Marley and Bob Cratchit) (96 min.). [illegible]

Everybody's Fine A lonely widower named Frank (Robert De Niro) [illegible] America to [illegible] with his estranged [illegible] (Drew Barrymore, Kate Beckinsale, Sam Rockwell) in director Kirk Jones' [illegible] remake of the Italian family [illegible] (99 min.) [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

the team. [illegible] adapted the screenplay himself (128 min.) [illegible]

Fantastic Mr. Fox Maybe all along Wes Anderson was an animation [illegible] for this masterful [illegible] (voice of George Clooney) [illegible] Meryl Streep, Willem Dafoe, Michael Gambon [illegible] Anderson (*The Royal Tenenbaums*, *The Darjeeling Limited*) [illegible] (87 min.) [illegible]

Invictus Newly elected president [illegible] (played by Morgan Freeman [illegible]) [illegible] captain Francois Pienaar (played by Matt Damon [illegible]) [illegible] post-apartheid South Africa. The sports [illegible] in the 1995 Rugby World Cup [illegible] Clint Eastwood [illegible] Anthony Peckham's screenplay (adapted from John Carlin's book) [illegible] Tony Kgoroge [illegible] (134 min.) [illegible]

It's Complicated How to turn a [illegible] middle-aged [illegible] Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin [illegible] Nancy Meyers [illegible] (118 min.) [illegible]

Me and Orson Welles Time-time director Richard Linklater [illegible] New York theater life in the late 1930s, specifically the Mercury Theatre's stage production of *Julius Caesar* [illegible] Zac Efron and Claire Danes [illegible] Christian McKay [illegible] as Joseph Cotten [illegible] as George Coulouris [illegible] (114 min.) [illegible]

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic [illegible] Egyptian civilization [illegible]

Nine [illegible] remake of Fellini's *8½* [illegible] the 1982 Broadway [illegible] Daniel Day-Lewis [illegible] (Penélope Cruz, Nicole Kidman, Kate Hudson, Fergie) [illegible] his wife (Marion Cotillard) [illegible]

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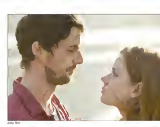

Leap Year

to sit through Nine or his [illegible] (Sophia Loren), to finish writing his tunes [illegible] blend of the tunes sing the easy-to-forget songs by Arthur Kopit and Maury Yeston in their own voices. But none of it is remotely [illegible] unless you [illegible] [illegible] director Rob (Memoirs of a Geisha) Marshall's bright idea of having the actors [illegible] Italian-accented English. Somewhere, Fellini is spinning in his grave. [illegible] (120 min.) (K.V.)ATC, CWC, ECC, CAPH, PM, RA, RH, University of California, Berkeley

Ninja Assassin Rivers of blood but only a blood of believable drama. Korean pop singer Rain stars as [illegible] member [illegible] of the [illegible] dialogue [illegible] "Let the times be remembered for a thousand years." The one bright spot is the [illegible] of legendary martial arts hero Sho Kosugi as the [illegible]. Otherwise, forget it. Directed by James McTeigue (V for Vendetta) (99 min.) (K.V.)CDC

Paa [illegible] politician Amol (Abhishek Bachchan) [illegible] his 13-year-old son Auro (Amitabh Bachchan) [illegible] In Hindi with English subtitles.

Pirate Radio For people who [illegible] 1960s rock on the [illegible] this year. But practically anyone [illegible] in the antics of a crew of radio deejays [illegible] Rhys Ifans, [illegible] Tom Sturridge among the deejays, [illegible] as the [illegible] government minister sworn to shut them down, and Emma Thompson [illegible]. It's a [illegible] summer camp [illegible] directed [illegible] by director Curtis (Notting Hill, Four Weddings and a Funeral) from his own screenplay. [illegible] (135 min.) (K.V.)AMC

Precious Urban horror story drama [illegible] Gabourey Sidibe [illegible] Precious [illegible] a Harlem teenager, born 1987, [illegible] director Lee Daniels (Shadowboxer) working from Geoffrey Fletcher's adaptation of Sapphire's young adult [illegible] Precious' [illegible] Mo'Nique [illegible] Mariah Carey [illegible] (110 min.) (K.V.)DDL, S, RA, JL, V

The Princess and the Frog Disney's return of hand-drawn animation pays off triumphantly in this charming, tune-filled romantic comedy set in old New Orleans [illegible] with velvety voodoo, lively situations, and a rich [illegible] of African-American [illegible] tales, the "princess" is poor young woman Tiana (Anika Noni Rose) [illegible] prince-turned-frog [illegible] Keith David, Oprah Winfrey, Terrence Howard, John Goodman [illegible] and Jim Cummings as Ray the Cajun firefly. If this is any [illegible] of Pixar's effect on Disney House, the merger was one of the best moves Disney ever made. Directed by Ron Clements and John Musker [illegible] (97 min.) (K.V.)ATC, [illegible]

The Road [illegible] Viggo Mortensen [illegible] Kodi Smit-McPhee [illegible] Cormac McCarthy [illegible] Pulitzer [illegible] John Hillcoat [illegible] Joe Penhall [illegible] Robert Duvall, Guy Pearce and Charlize Theron (111 min.) (K.V.)[illegible]

Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year Harpreet Singh Bedi (Ranbir Kapoor) graduated from [illegible] Directed by Shimit Amin (Chak De! India). In Hindi with English subtitles.

Sherlock Holmes Robert Downey Jr. [illegible] Jude Law [illegible] Guy Ritchie's [illegible] Victorian London [illegible] Mark Strong [illegible] Rachel McAdams [illegible] Arthur Conan Doyle [illegible] (128 min.) (K.V.)[illegible]

A Single Man Colin Firth, as a 1960s-era [illegible] Tom Ford's adaptation of Christopher Isherwood's novel. [illegible]

[illegible] of English golf Georgie's (Firth) and [illegible] (121 min.) (K.V.)CAPH, AJ

Solaris The story to everyone's [illegible] of you. CSC

To Be an Astronaut [illegible] what it takes? Take a trip inside the game of NASA for an IMAX-enhanced view of everything from training to lift-off (40 min.) CSC

The Twilight Saga: New Moon Second installment of the teenage vampire romance [illegible] "Dracula vs. The Wolf Man" [illegible] Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) breaks up with her vampire boyfriend Edward (Robert Pattinson) and [illegible] (Taylor Lautner) [illegible] director Chris Weitz [illegible] opposite the [illegible] John Hughes [illegible] (based on Stephenie Meyer's novels). [illegible] Stewart's performance is fine. Also with Ashley Greene, Dakota Fanning, and Michael Sheen [illegible] (130 min.) (K.V.)BT, CSC, RA, RH, JAB

Up in the Air George Clooney once again [illegible] Here, for [illegible] director (Juno), Clooney is "termination facilitator" Ryan Bingham [illegible] Tulsa and [illegible] Anna Kendrick [illegible] Vera Farmiga [illegible] (109 min.) (K.V.)[illegible]

The Young Victoria Emily Blunt may be [illegible] in this relatively straightforward [illegible] drama about the coming of age [illegible] England's longest-reigning [illegible] director Jean-Marc Vallée [illegible] (Rupert Friend) [illegible] Paul Bettany as the prime minister Lord Melbourne. Miranda Richardson as Vicky's mom, Thomas Kretschmann as scheming King Leopold of Belgium, [illegible] are pretty good. [illegible] Hollywood. [illegible] screenplay is by [illegible] Julian Fellowes (Vanity Fair, Gosford Park) (100 min.) (K.V.)CEPH, AL, V

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

Solaris (165 min., 1972) Free Movie Night (924 Gilman St., dialogue 7:30)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

Park Fine Daddy (60 min., 2007) Free director discussion and [illegible] Hall, Oakland 6:30)

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BEST EAST BAY THEATER
IMAGINARIUM OF DR PARNASSUS (PG13)
SORRY NO PASSES
FRI-SAT SUN [illegible] 1:00 9:30
MON THUR [illegible] 7:00 9:30
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG13)
FRI SUN 1:30 3:30 7:15 11:00
MON THUR [illegible]
AVATAR (PG13)
In [illegible] 3D SORRY NO PASSES
FRI-SUN 12:00 3:15 6:30 9:45
MON THUR 4:00 7:30
INVICTUS (PG)
FRI-SUN [illegible]
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SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13)
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MUSIC

POSTMODERN TRADITIONAL MUSIC

How Tim Eriksen became perhaps the only musician to play with both Kurt Cobain and Doc Watson

By Jeffrey Callen

Tim Eriksen

Without doubt, Tim Eriksen is one of the most original American singers working today. Once you hear his voice, it is impossible to forget: its richness and intensity seem hauntingly appropriate whether he is performing New England murder ballads, Bosnian pop songs, or punk rock. Yet it is always distinctly his voice, the product of a wide-ranging set of musical experiences. Eriksen's musical career began as the front man for Massachusetts punk band Cordelia's Dad in the Eighties and along the way to becoming a leading expert on Shape Note and Sacred Harp singing, he studied South Indian Carnatic music and toured the Bosnian pop group Zabe i Babe. It is somehow not surprising that he may be the only musician to have shared a stage with Kurt Cobain and Doc Watson. Eriksen continues to perform in a diverse collection of genres, including punk and Bosnian pop, but his primary musical calling is a sub-set of Anglo-American traditional music that he calls "Northern Roots" music that he will be performing Wednesday, January 6, at the Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse in Berkeley.

"Northern Roots" is a label Eriksen created to describe the collection of Anglo-American music he performs: songs from New England and the Southeastern United States, with a few Irish numbers thrown in. For Eriksen, a New England native, the label describes the musical interconnections that exist between different sections of the US from a New Englander's perspective. As he explained during a recent phone interview, "It's a postmodern view of New England culture ... a way into a repertoire that I see as being connected by the centrality of a certain way of singing, which in part is my own personal way of singing. But there are aspects of it that run through the ballads, Sacred Harp singing, and punk to a certain degree in terms of voice production." Northern Roots is also a product of Eriksen's personal journey to traditional vocal music that began when he was playing "end times punk" during the Reagan era, when a feeling of impending disaster hung in the air. "I was playing hardcore punk but we were all wondering what would happen when there was no more electricity. What are we going to play? So a bunch of us got interested in things like unaccompanied singing." He soon began to sense that a collection of musical characteristics was shared by the music he was drawn to — pentatonic melodies, the use of a drone, and a filling of the aural space (the music he was drawn to demanded that it occupy the foreground; none of it was suited to be background music). The Northern Roots label was also a pragmatic choice: "a one- or two-word answer, which is what venues are looking for, what magazines are often looking for, just to try and get a handle on it. So even if it's not 100 percent true, it gets you a little way in the right direction ... then you can complicate it and qualify it after that."

Eriksen regularly receives superlative reviews for his performances of Anglo-American traditional music and has been hailed as the "best traditional American ballad singer of his generation." However, he does not approach roots material with the rigid reverence of a traditionalist — he's not sure if such people ("more Catholic than the Pope") really exist — but incorporates whatever he feels is appropriate from his diverse set of musical experiences. He has deep respect for the musical traditions he draws from but does not approach them as fragile museum pieces. This is particularly true for Sacred Harp songs, which occupy a prominent place in the Northern Roots repertoire. He described his approach to Sacred Harp songs (a tradition of Christian social singing that developed in the Southeast United States during the mid-1800s): "Within Sacred Harp there are very clear boundaries around the tradition and it's contested and that contestation is part of the tradition trying to figure out what it is. But I do things like singing into the back of the banjo at the end of a Sacred Harp song or using instrumental accompaniment (even a punk rock band) that are not at all part of the tradition. There are Sacred Harp singers who think that's great and there are those that don't like it, but I don't think it transgresses the boundaries of the singing itself." Eriksen approaches other portions of his Northern Roots repertoire with the same attitude of thoughtful respect. He has been delving into Irish music for a few years but was not ready to add Irish songs to his performances until he felt he could do them well enough that they stopped sounding "all Irishy" and phony.

Show Details
Tim Eriksen performs at Freight & Salvage (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 8 p.m. $18.50-$19.50. FreightandSalvage.org

As complicated and polysemic as Northern Roots music might be on the conceptual level, Eriksen's performances are truly satisfying musical experiences. His new album *Northern Roots Live in Namest* (Indiescope 2009), recorded at a folk festival in the Czech Republic, provides a virtual experience of the power of this music in concert. At Freight & Salvage, you'll get the real thing: Tim Eriksen singing and accompanying himself on banjo, fiddle, guitar and bajo sexto (a lot of bajo sexto). Unexpectedly, but in keeping with its postmodern inclination, the bajo sexto — a relative of the guitar used in Norteño and Conjunto music of northern Mexico and the Southwestern United States — has become the signature instrument of Northern Roots music. It is, after all, roots music of the Northeast from the perspective of one contemporary New Englander who was enraptured by the sound of the bajo sexto during a visit to the Southwest. ●

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CD REVIEW

CRAZY DOOM

Clipped twangyness, folksy Brit pop and off-beat treasures.

The Feelies
Crazy Rhythms

Possessing jittery cadences, adenoidal phrasing, a clipped twangyness, *Crazy Rhythms* is one of those seminal debut albums on par with *Marquee Moon* and *The Velvet Underground & Nico* — records that made nary a commercial ripple but were hugely influential on a generation of artists that followed. The cover — slightly nerdy band members standing before a sparse blue background — reflects the minimalism and lack of flash contained within the record's nine songs. Driven by the tribal bottom and crisp timekeeping of drummer Anton Fier, guitarists/vocalists Bill Million and Glenn Mercer use nasally vocals to apply a frisson of unease to the proceedings, be it the opener "The Boy With the Perpetual Nervousness" and its hypnotic layering of chords and scratchy snare, or the hypnotic title cut that benefits from the kind of ramshackle strum and bouncing bass line that might have fallen off a Modern Lovers record.

Percussion in the shape of cowbells, maracas, castanets give added weight to the guitar drone the Feelies use to great effect on the first single "Fa Ce-La," with its clipped harmonies and punk-like urgency. On "Original Sin," Mercer's dramatic vocal phrasing is straight out of the Jim Morrison school of dramatic timbre, even as he and Million furiously strum out chords. Quirky time changes and infectious dynamics shifts are also par for the course on songs like "Loveless Love," where the tension eventually peaks before a cascading guitar solo leads you down a sonic wormhole, or "Moscow Nights," whose sonic crescendo includes a kitchen's sink-worth of timbale, tambourine, pipe, and sleigh bells. Best of all is a version of "Everybody's Got Something to Hide (Except for Me and My Monkey)," which force-feeds the Fab Four amphetamines with the result being the most killer underscored Beatles cover around. While R.E.M. and Yo La Tengo were the obvious immediate acolytes, the Feelies obviously laid the groundwork for the traumatized murderer of Rivers Cuomo and his ilk. (Bar/None)

— *Dave Gil de Rubio*

Ty Segall and Mikal Cronin
Reverse Shark Attack

Over the last year, the Bay Area has seen a ridiculous amount of rock 'n' roll perfection from the Fresh & Onlys to Thee Oh Sees. It doesn't seem to be letting up either. To add to the list, Ty Segall teamed up with Mikal Cronin who spent time in Charlie and the Moonhearts. While both Segall and those Moonhearts truck in different tributaries of garage rock (the latter being a bit punkier), *Reverse Shark Attack* leans toward a relatively more traditional approach. Released on the Oakland-based Kill Shaman label, *Reverse Shark Attack* features a scant eight songs spread out over 25 minutes. What comprises the disc is all top-tier work, so the short run time is only a minor quibble. "Bikini Babes" begins with the couplet *I don't wanna go to school/ I just wanna have fun*. Even as this is undoubtedly a sentiment that comes off as half conceived, the organ solo that follows makes up for any perceived lyrical transgression.

The album's oddity, the ten-minute title track, which follows a Pink Floyd cover, is able to move through Sixties Brit pop into a folksy section, get into some unmitigated noise, and conclude with a fervent Dick Dale imitation. Segall and Cronin haven't quite reached the pinnacle of their collective talents, but they're getting close. (Kill Shaman)

— *Dave Cantor*

Tom Waits
Glitter and Doom Live

Part barnstorming preacher, part carnival barker, and part scarecrow come to life, Tom Waits took the stage in a string of theaters and ballrooms last summer for the aptly named Glitter and Doom tour, shuffling across the country with his wildly imaginative and profoundly weird songs. A two-disc live set culled from ten of those performances now stands as a permanent artifact for those fleeting, ethereal moments savored by Waits enthusiasts. The reclusive and self-mythologizing Waits rarely tours, so it's no surprise that *Glitter and Doom Live* shows the fingerprints of a perfectionist.

The vivid and thrilling record captures Waits at his peak as a showman, backed by an excellent and versatile band that shines in Karl Derfler's clear and precise mix. At nearly two hours, the set is teeming with memorable moments, both in the first disc of 16 songs and one characteristically odd story (about buying the last dying breath of Henry Ford on eBay) and in the second disc, a single 36-minute track of precious Waits banter. The set, strung together like one live show, focuses on his latter-day material (2004's *Real Gone* is the best represented album, at four songs), proof that his records over the past decade are as good as any in his long career. The songs selected lean more toward brawlers than bawlers, to use Waits' own parlance, as he growls, moans, and wheezes his way through them. The jazzy, slinking menace of "Dead in the Ground," the wistful "Fannin Street," and the gorgeously mournful "Lucky Day" are just a few of the highlights.

Ultimately, the only thing left to ask for is simply more. The Glitter and Doom shows were typically 20 to 24 songs, with setlists that varied widely from night to night. Surely there were enough off-beat treasures to stretch this live album by another disc or two. (Anti-)

— *Eric Swedlund*

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LOCAL LICKS

The Drowsy Holler
Uva Uvum Vivendo Varie Fit

Boozy philosophizing abounds on this rollicking album that's a little bit rock and a lot country. With a loving tribute to the wonders of Guinness, multiple odes to dysfunctional relationships, and a hilariously homesick take on the female view of the whole thing, this album will remind you why you always regret drinking too much, but do it anyway. (self released)

Anna Ash and the Family Tree
My Oh My

Folksy and deliberately old fashioned, *My Oh My* sneaks up on you with such sly charm that you may not realize how dark its undertones are. Vocals are pretty but a little eerie, lyrics unfold like clever spoken-word poetry set to music. It's both cutely retro and self-consciously modern. Like a mint julep drunk on a Southern porch, it packs a subtle kick. (self released)

At Cafe International (508 Haight St., San Francisco) on January 9, 8 p.m., free.

Kush Arora
Boiling Over

Seamlessly blending dub, bhangra, dancehall, and ragga is hard to pull off but Kush Arora makes it sound easy. More accessible to the average listener than traditional bhangra, *Boiling Over* is a great introduction for people unfamiliar with India's contributions to the dance genre. This is a polished piece of work, with diverse elements creating a tight, cohesive whole. Impressive stuff. (self released)

At 1015 Folsom (1015 Folsom St., San Francisco) on February 5, 8 p.m., $15.

Fighting the Villain
First Impressions

Strong debut from this progressive pop/punk outfit. With surprisingly solid songwriting for such a young band, it's no surprise it's been getting local radio play. Singer Caitlyn Mae Liming is suitably snarly and expressive but not over the top about it, the rest of the band knows their stuff, and the production is clean and smooth. Emo fans are going to love this. (PopSmear Records)

At Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th Street, San Francisco) on February 3, 8:30 p.m., $10.

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3.5 SFJAZZ Collective
3.14 Maceo Parker
6.12 Salif Keita
4.23 Booker T.
4.24 Ana Moura
5.25 Raul Midón
5.29 Lou Donaldson
3.7 Kate McGarry Trio
5.15 Sexmob with DJ Olive
4.17 Tomasz Stanko Quintet
5.23 Faye Carol & Jamie Davis
3.26 Tord Gustavsen Ensemble
5.22 Soulive & Wil Blades O.G.D
4.25 Charles Lloyd New Quartet
6.16 SFJAZZ High School All-Stars
3.27 Ralph Towner with Paolo Fresu
5.16 Sheila Jordan with Steve Kuhn
6.18 James Farm with Joshua Redman
6.4 Renee Rosnes with Bill Charlap and Toshiko Akiyoshi with Lew Tabackin
4.18 Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile

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CONCERTS &CLUBS

ON SALE THIS WEEK

Alkaline Trio w/ [illegible]. Tickets on sale January 8, 10 am. Thu., Feb. 18, 8 p.m., $28-$33. The Grand Ballroom, 1300 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco.

[illegible] Tickets on sale January 10, 10 am. Sat., March 27, 8 p.m., $31-$35. The Grand Ballroom, 1300 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco.

[illegible] Orchestra: Tickets on sale January 14, 10 am. Fri., April 23, 8 p.m., $30-$33. The Grand Ballroom, 1300 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco.

[illegible] Tickets on sale January 10, 10 am. Tue., Feb. 1, 8 p.m., TBA. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco.

[illegible] Tickets on sale January 7, 10 am. Fri., Feb. 19, 8 p.m., $40.50-$88.00. Fox Theater, 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] Tickets on sale January 11, 10 am. Tue., March 23, 8 p.m., TBA. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco.

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. Tickets on sale January 9, 10 am. Wed., March 31, 8 p.m. TBA. The Grand Ballroom, 1300 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco.

Owl City: Tickets on sale January 8, 10 am. Mon., April 5, 8:30 p.m. TBA. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco.

Phoenix: Tickets on sale January 10, 10 am. Tue., Jan. 26, 8 p.m. TBA. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco.

[illegible] featuring [illegible]. Tickets on sale January 8, 10 am. Sat., Feb. 20, 6 p.m. $35-$39.50. Fox Theater, 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Vampire Weekend: Tickets on sale January 7, 10 am. Mon., April 19, 8 p.m. $37.50. Fox Theater, 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

THURSDAY 7

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Dr. K's Roots Revue Series featuring Steve Hardin, Mike and the Scarecrows, & Otis Mobile. Freight & Salvage. 8 pm. $14.50-$18.50

Mojo Hand Cafe Van Kleef. 9 pm. TBA

Classical & Opera

[illegible] solo guitar. Cafe Caco Wine Bar, Restaurant & Gallery. 7-9 pm. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz Noir swing jazz. King Yum Chinese Restaurant. 6:30-9 pm. free

Thursday Night Live [illegible]. Zoe's Wellness. 8-12 pm. free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. The [illegible] Brothers, Stacy Plough. 8 pm. $8

The Annual [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] Brothers, [illegible]. 8 pm. $10

The [illegible] Lori's Doll Sports Bar. 10 pm. free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Yoshi's. 8 & 10 pm. $24

Unplugged live R&B, soul, & jazz [illegible] plus [illegible] after 11 p.m. [illegible]. 9 pm. $15-$20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

David Night w/ DJ Eddie T plus dance lessons. Wrexie's Bar & Grill. 8 pm. $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ Kaitlyn McCabe, [illegible]. [illegible]. 8 pm. $8

[illegible] [illegible] & Blues. 9 pm. $16

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Quartet Club Fugazi. 8 pm. $25-$71

Eric Kurtzrock Trio live jazz. [illegible]. 7:30-11 pm. free

[illegible] & His Ensemble French & American jazz [illegible]. Le Colonial. 7:30 pm. free

[illegible] & Friends w/ special guest [illegible] Sanders. [illegible] San Francisco. 8 & 10 pm. $18-$30. $5 kids for Sunday matinee

Annual Jazz [illegible] The [illegible]. 8 pm. free

Rock & Pop

14th Annual Mardi Gras [illegible] featuring Cowboy [illegible]. [illegible]. 8 pm. $22

[illegible] w/ [illegible], & [illegible]. 8:30 pm. $8

[illegible] Grant & Green. 9 pm. free

La [illegible] w/ [illegible]. 8:30 pm. $8-$10

The [illegible] featuring [illegible]. 9 pm. $12

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. $5-$8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Coda. 8 pm. $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Thursdays [illegible] presents music & dance w/ [illegible] performers. 8 pm. $12

FRIDAY 8

EAST BAY

All Ages

Song of [illegible] [illegible] Shabbat uniting Sephardic, Mizrahi, & [illegible] traditions. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay. 7:30 pm. free

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] and The [illegible] [illegible]. 8:30 pm. free

Experimental & Avant Garde

[illegible] Cafe Van Kleef. 8 pm. TBA

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Allan Holdsworth w/ Terry Bozzio, Tony Levin, & Pat Mastelotto. Yoshi's. 8 & 10 pm. $41-$70. $5 kids for Sunday Session

[illegible] Cafe [illegible]. 8 pm. free

[illegible] Anna's. 8 pm. $10

[illegible] w/ Craig Caothers, [illegible]. Freight & Salvage. 8 pm. $18.50-$19.50

[illegible] Ashkenaz. 9 pm. $13/$10 w/student ID

[illegible] [illegible]. 10 pm. $10

Rock & Pop

All Girls [illegible] featuring [illegible], Whiskey [illegible], David Alley, [illegible] & [illegible]. 924 Gilman. 8 pm. $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible] on Telegraph. 9:30 pm. $10

[illegible] w/ The [illegible]. [illegible]. 8 pm. $10

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], & The [illegible]. Stacy Plough. 8 pm. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible] Records Shop & Cafe. 7:30 pm. free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Jupiter. 8 pm. free

Reggae Party DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], R&B and Reggae, w/ [illegible] Sound and [illegible] performed and [illegible]. 9 pm.

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible] Hotel Utah. 8 pm. $8

Joe Louis Walker Biscuits & Blues. 8 & 10 pm. $22

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Club Fugazi. 8 pm. $25-$71

[illegible] Top of the Mark. 9 pm-1 am. $10

Eric Kurtzrock Trio [illegible]. 8 pm. free

The [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] Steam & Records. 5:30-8 pm. free

Roy Hargrove & Friends w/ special guest Pharoah Sanders. Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 & 10 pm. $18-$30. $5 kids for Sunday matinee

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ Diego's [illegible]. The Independent. 9 pm. $12

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible]. 8 pm. $12-$22

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. 9 pm. $5-$8

DJ [illegible] [illegible] Lounge. 6-9 pm. free

[illegible] w/ Young [illegible], & [illegible]. 9:30 pm. $7

Eric McFadden Trio w/ The [illegible]. Cafe du Nord. 9 pm. $12

[illegible] Mighty w/ [illegible]. [illegible]. 8:30 pm. $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] [illegible] dancing w/ [illegible]. [illegible]. 8:30 pm. $15-$20

[illegible] [illegible] Hall. 8 pm. $16-$23

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Shakers. 7 pm. $5-$15

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible] Club. 10 pm. free

Eric McFadden Trio Cafe Van Kleef. 9 pm. TBA

[illegible] de La [illegible] Saturday morning children's show w/ live band. La [illegible] Cultural Center. 10:30 am. $8. kids $4

[illegible] & w/ [illegible], Ashkenaz. [illegible]. 9 pm. $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible] on Telegraph. 9:30 pm. $10

Zodiac [illegible]

[illegible] w/ [illegible], & [illegible]. 9 pm. $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Celebration of [illegible] [illegible] New Year [illegible]. Art House Gallery & Cultural Center. 7 pm. $10

[illegible] w/ live [illegible]. [illegible] 8 pm. Historic Sweet's Ballroom. 8:30 pm. $15

Live Reggae Night w/ rotating live [illegible]. Sweet Fingers. 9 pm. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible] 8 & 10 pm. $20

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. 9:30 pm. $8

[illegible] [illegible] folk music w/ [illegible]. Cafe [illegible]. 10:30 am-12:15 pm. free

Toby Lightman w/ [illegible]. Hotel Utah. 7 pm. $17

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Quartet Club Fugazi. 7 & 10 pm. $25-$77

[illegible] featuring [illegible]. Exedo Theatre. 7 pm. $15

[illegible] [illegible] Saloon. 9-11 pm. free

Eric [illegible] Trio [illegible]. 8 pm. [illegible]

[illegible] Valley Ministry. $10-$15

[illegible] playing soft jazz piano. Top of the Mark. 9 pm-1 am. $5-$10

Roy Hargrove & Friends w/ special guest Pharoah Sanders. Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 & 10 pm. $18-$30. $5 kids for Sunday matinee

[illegible] [illegible]. 8 pm. $20

Rock & Pop

D.R.I. w/ [illegible], Voetsek. [illegible]. 9 pm. $17

[illegible] w/ [illegible]

SATURDAY 9

EASY BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Armando's. 8 pm. $10

[illegible] & [illegible] Ashkenaz. 9 pm. $13/$10 w/student ID

The [illegible] Trio featuring [illegible]. [illegible]. 8:30 pm. free

Experimental & Avant Garde

[illegible] & [illegible] Trinity Chapel. 8 pm. $6-$12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Allan Holdsworth w/ Terry Bozzio, Tony Levin, & Pat Mastelotto. Yoshi's. 8 & 10 pm. $34-$70. $5 kids for Sunday matinee

[illegible] Quartet [illegible]. 8 pm. $12

[illegible] Freight & Salvage. 8 pm. $20.50-$21.50

[illegible] [illegible]. 8:30 pm. $8

The [illegible] of Jazz, Soul, & Quartet [illegible]. 9 pm. $10

[illegible] Jupiter. 8 pm. free

[illegible] Annual [illegible] Festival featuring performances by Cantor Jennie Chabon and Jake Elk, Cantor [illegible], Rabbi [illegible] of [illegible] & the Grammy-Award winning Pacific Boychoir. Congregation [illegible]

Treasure: Masters of the [illegible]. 8 pm. $10

[illegible] Cafe [illegible]. 8 pm. $10-$17

[illegible] [illegible] Broadway [illegible]. 8 pm. $20

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Body & Soul Johnny Foley's Irish House. 9 pm. free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] w/ David [illegible], Granada [illegible]. The Independent. 9 pm. $13-$15

SUNDAY 10

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

John McCutcheon Freight & Salvage. 8 pm. $8.50-$9.50

The [illegible] Irish Session listen to or play Irish music w/ [illegible]. Stacy Plough. 8:15 pm. [illegible]

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Solo piano recital: [illegible], [illegible] Fantasia in F minor, Op. 49; [illegible]; [illegible]. Hertz Hall. 3 pm. $34, $46, $50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Allan Holdsworth w/ Terry Bozzio, Tony Levin, & Pat Mastelotto. Yoshi's. 2 & 7 pm. $14-$34. $5 kids for Sunday Session

The [illegible] Armando's. 3 pm. $10

[illegible] [illegible] Gallery. Performance Space. 4 pm. free

The [illegible] [illegible]. 4:30 pm. $5

[illegible] Waterfront Restaurant [illegible]. 5-10 pm. $10

[illegible] Trio [illegible]. 7:15-9 pm. free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ Your Heart [illegible], Angela [illegible], The New [illegible]. 8 pm. $10-$12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Afro-Cuban rumba [illegible] & dance party. Cafe Valparaiso. 3:30-6:30 pm. free

[illegible] featuring [illegible], Stephen Kent. Ashkenaz. 7 pm. $12-$15

[illegible] [illegible]. 11 am-1 pm. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible] Utah. 8 pm. $7

[illegible] Plough and Stars. 9 pm. free

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golden hours with dj golden [illegible] 6-10pm
djs [illegible] and tibbs 10pm
SATURDAY
warm up with [illegible] 7-10pm
soul knockout with djs [illegible],
[illegible] 10pm
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PICKS

Buck and Mayas Duo

Tony Buck is best known for his work with the Necks, an Australian drum/bass/piano trio that stretches post-rock and avant jazz into lengthy meditations of textures and repetitive gestures. He's also active in Berlin's thriving improv scene, and has performed with, among many others, pianist Magda Mayas for about seven years. Their music is free improvisation drawing from the pounding energy of free jazz, but with more of a focus on sound itself. Buck hits and rattles around the drums while Mayas matches his timbres with a prepared piano: Objects applied to the strings interfere with their resonance and enhance their percussive nature. As far out as the piano sounds, Buck's playing embraces, rather than subverts, the sound of a rock-oriented drum set, and incorporates the same sort of insistent rhythmic patterns that define his playing with the Necks. Buck and Mayas perform with Tony Buck, Scott R. Looney, and Damon Smith trio at the SIMM Series at the Musicians Union Hall (116 9th St., San Francisco) on Sunday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m. $8-10. Outsound.org. — *Jacob Felix Heule*

Dengue Fever

Dengue Fever's psychedelic take on the Cambodian rock music of the '60s has produced one of the most distinctive sounds in modern music. The American members of the Los Angeles-based band all fell in love with Cambodian music on their own, but when they began collaborating with the Cambodian singer Ch'hom Nimol, who was already a major star in Cambodia, their music achieved a new level of complexity. The Cambodian scales and Nimol's vocal improvisations are slightly dissonant to Western ears, but the band's funky, pounding, jazz-influenced garage-band grunge keeps the music accessible and highly danceable.

Garrick Ohlsson

Photo: Jason Collins

The Lost Trio

Lesta Hall

Dengue Fever plays Friday, Jan. 8, at **the Independent** (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco). 9 p.m., $18. TheIndependentSF.com. — *j. poet*

Garrick Ohlsson

One of the Bay Area's premiere treasures, **Garrick Ohlsson** returns to Cal Performances to celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of Frédéric Chopin. Given that the recent Grammy recipient also won the gold medal at the 1970 Chopin International Piano Competition, his performance of the Impromptu in F-sharp major, Op. 36; Ballade in A-flat major, Op. 47; Fantasy in F minor, Op. 49; Two Nocturnes, Op. 27; Scherzo in C-sharp minor, Op. 39; and Twenty-four Preludes, Op. 28 should be very, very special. At **Zellerbach Hall** (Telegraph Ave. at Bancroft Way, Berkeley) on Sunday, Jan. 10, 3 p.m. $34-$58. 510-642-9988 or CalPerformances.org. — *Jason Victor Serinus*

The Lost Trio

Oakland's **Lost Trio** arranges the songs of popular artists such as PJ Harvey, Radiohead, and Bock as 21st-century jazz standards, augmenting their repertoire of traditional standards by Thelonious Monk and Steve Lacy, music by Italian film composer Nino Rota (*The Godfather* #1?) and original compositions. Working overtime, Dan Seamans' massive bass handles most of the instrumental voices in the trio's repertoire of cover versions. He augments his important rhythmic and harmonic role with dynamic solos. Tom Hassett's sensitive, swinging drumming perfectly complements this powerful bass playing. On songs like Juan Mollina's "Misterio Uruguayo," Phillip Greenlief plays his tenor sax with both quiet strength and soaring lyricism, perfectly stepping in for the original vocals. The Lost Trio inaugurates its 16th year of existence with an afternoon set at Café Royale (800 Post St., San Francisco) on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2 p.m., free. CafeRoyale-SF.com. — *Jacob Felix Heule*

Rahsaan Patterson

Few male tenors are as fierce as **Rahsaan Patterson** (in this market, Bilal might be his only real competition). An expert in gospel and R&B, the singer graces Yoshi's about once a year with a consistently fantastic band. (In 2008, the rhythm section included keyboardist Kenneth Crouch and Legally Blind bassist Eric Smith. The Broussard sang backup.) Patterson is known for quirky verbiage (e.g., *"My heart is beating rapidly, fire..."*) and lengthy breakdowns, but the purity of his voice is uncontestable. He's one of those old-school vocalists who hits all the high notes without recourse to AutoTune. Rarely in contemporary R&B do we get to hear such clean ripples. Rahsaan Patterson performs Thursday, Jan. 7, at **Yoshi's** (510 Embarcadero, Oakland). 8 & 10 p.m., $24. Yoshis.com. — *Rachel Swan*

Joe Louis Walker

A longtime fixture on the blues scene, six-string wielding San Francisco native **Joe Louis Walker** has been plying his trade since the mid-Sixties. One of the genre's best-kept secrets, Walker has nonetheless recorded with the likes of Taj Mahal, Bonnie Raitt, and B.B. King, while undergoing a musical journey that found him delving into psychedelic rock and gospel before returning to his blues roots in the mid-Eighties. After releasing last year's Duke Robillard-produced *Between a Rock and the Blues*, Walker got nominated for five awards in the upcoming 31st Blues Music Awards including Album of the Year and Contemporary Blues Album of the Year. The longtime Bay Area fave will be getting his blues jones on at **Biscuits & Blues** (401 Mason St., San Francisco) on Friday, Jan. 8, 8 & 10 p.m., $22. BiscuitsandBlues.com. — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

Classical & Opera

Shannon Duran on piano for Sunday champagne brunch, Top of the Mark, 10 am-2 pm, $59 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Black Market Antyles Club Fugazi, 2 & 5 pm, $35-$77

Ray Hargrove & Friends w/ special guest Pharoah Sanders, Yoshi's San Francisco, 5 & 7 pm, $18-$30, $5 kids for Sunday matinee

Vince Lateano & Friends featuring Jennifer Speight, Sam Dodd-Helm, 8 Mark

Gibson, Bergerfalt Saloon, 4:30-8:30 pm, $5

Rock & Pop

An Evening with Friends w/ Luv R Rodeo, Ashley Allred, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $15

The Dicast Comedy w/ Mississippi Man,

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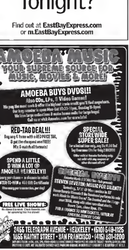
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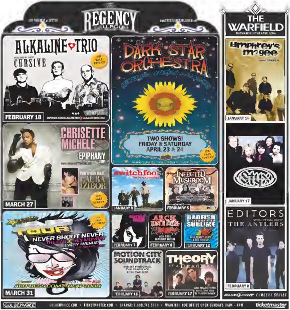
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Sonic Youth The [illegible], 8 pm, $33
[illegible] ★ [illegible], 8 pm, $10-$18
[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free
Where's the Band? Tour featuring Dustin Kensrue, Matt Pryor, Chris Conley, & Anthony Raneri, Bottom of the Hill, 7 pm, $15-$18

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, $7
***Salsa Sundays** w/ rotating live bands, salsa dance lesson, El Rio, 3 pm, $8

MONDAY 11

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 pm, $10
***[illegible]** [illegible] Uptown, 9 pm, $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz Mondays [illegible], 8 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ The Ends, Over The Falls, [illegible], 8 pm, $5-$8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] featuring [illegible], 8 pm

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $20-$25

TUESDAY 12

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Roadhouse Zydeco Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10
[illegible] Peter's Restaurant, 7:30-9 pm, free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Oakland Active Orchestra ★ [illegible] Uptown, 9 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible], 7-8 pm, free
[illegible] Café Fiesta, 7 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Pellejo Seco Yoshi's, 8 pm, $14

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Club Waziema, 8 pm, free

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Herbst Theatre, 8 pm, $37-$49

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] Electronics featuring [illegible], the George Hurd Ensemble, & [illegible], [illegible] Club, 8 pm, $7

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] ★ [illegible], Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $18
[illegible] playing [illegible] jazz piano, Top of the Mark, 7 pm-midnight, $5-$8
[illegible] [illegible] Club, 9:30 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Café du Nord, 9:30 pm, $10
[illegible] ★ Songs For Snakes, The New Day Rooters, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $8
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Room, 8 pm, $6
[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8:30 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Late Night Live w/ [illegible], & The [illegible], Yoshi's San Francisco, 9:30 pm, $5

WEDNESDAY 13

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $10-$16
[illegible] Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10
[illegible] [illegible] Roadhouse, 8-10 pm, free

Rock & Pop

The Inflatables Mezzo's Sports Bar & Grill, 9 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], & [illegible], [illegible], 11 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] accordion and violin duo performing music from Romania, Poland, Serbia and more, [illegible], 7 pm, free
[illegible] Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $5-$10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, $15

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Scott Amendola w/ [illegible], [illegible], Café du Nord, 9:30 pm, $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] featuring [illegible], Coda, 9 pm, $7
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Amnesia, 9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Band, The Independent, 8 pm, $12
[illegible] ★ [illegible], Slim's, 8 pm, $13
[illegible] [illegible], El Rio, 7 pm, $5
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Bimbo's, 9 pm, $6-$8
The New Day Rooters w/ Songs for Snakes, Pirate Radio, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $10
[illegible] ★ [illegible] Band, Café du Nord, 9:30 pm, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Elbo Room, 9 pm, $5
[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $29

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FRI 9PM [illegible]	MIGHTY IRIE DJs ROCKER T SMOKE-ONE & IRIE DOLO reggae, hip hop & dancehall
SAT 9PM [illegible]	TA DOW!! [illegible] OAKLAND FADERS, 4ONEFUNK & FINGERBANGERZ future funk & classic party anthems
SUN 9PM Free	THE SOUL FULL GLOW DJ [illegible] & GUESTS [illegible] you can dance to [illegible]
MON 9PM Free	THREE DAY WEEKEND DJs F MOSES & MOROCCO SLIM all vinyl hip hop & soul classics [illegible]
TUES 10PM Free	SOULFYAH DJ SERG & KOOLKYLE reggae, dancehall, lovers rock & [illegible]

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Wed, January 13
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Tues January 12
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Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054
Aura 4825 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-[illegible]
[illegible] 5610 Bay St., Emeryville
[illegible] 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Bar 561 17th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] St., Alameda, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Rock Bar 1250 Arroyo Way, Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible]
The [illegible] 1001 B St., Hayward, 510-[illegible]
Blake's on Telegraph 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0886
Blake's on Telegraph (upstairs) 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0886
[illegible] 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible]
[illegible] 175 L. Vineyard Ave., Livermore, 925-[illegible]
Club 1220 1220 Pine St., Walnut Creek, 925-938-4550
[illegible] [illegible] 3rd St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 135 12th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 3501 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] St., Oakland, 925-[illegible]
[illegible] 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Sports Bar 1521 [illegible], Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Ave., [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 150 Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible]
First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696
First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-3555
[illegible] 1501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] W. [illegible] Rd., Hayward, 510-[illegible]
Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-548-1761
[illegible] UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 1436 Webster St., Alameda, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 2961 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]
[illegible], Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237
[illegible] & the [illegible] 1223 Park St., Alameda, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 2150 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-[illegible]
[illegible] 1498 [illegible] St., [illegible], 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 522 2nd St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Restaurant 1000 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley
[illegible] 3331 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 858 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-[illegible]
Kitty's 6702 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-[illegible]
La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568
[illegible] Cafe 3909 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
Laney College Theatre 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-464-3543
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[illegible] Lounge 2221 [illegible], Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Sports Bar & Grill 2721 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge 341 13th Street, Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge 1920 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]
Mountain Winery 14831 Pierce Rd., Saratoga, 408-741-2822
[illegible] Cafe [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]
Oakland City Center [illegible] 12th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 630 2nd St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
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[illegible] Restaurant 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Main St., Pleasanton, 925-[illegible]
[illegible] 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 435 13th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Church [illegible], Lafayette, 925-[illegible]
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[illegible] 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible]
Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 3801 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Bar & Grill [illegible], Concord, 925-[illegible]
[illegible] Restaurant [illegible], Livermore, 925-[illegible]
[illegible] Auditorium UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-4200
White Horse Inn 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
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SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] Club [illegible], 415-[illegible]
330 Ritch 330 Ritch St., 415-541-9574
[illegible] 853 Valencia St., 415-970-0012
[illegible] [illegible] Haight St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Bar & Lounge 1 Tillman Pl., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] 440 Broadway St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 5921 California St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 1000 Great Highway, 415-[illegible]
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[illegible] [illegible], 415-[illegible]
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[illegible] [illegible] Vallejo St., 415-[illegible]
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[illegible] 312 Harriet St., 415-[illegible]
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[illegible] 285 9th St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 678 Green St., 415-[illegible]
Club Six 60 Sixth St., 415-863-1221
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave., 415-864-6000
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Leavenworth St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge 375 11th St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 2490 3rd St., 415-[illegible]
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Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Bar [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Geary St., 415-[illegible]
The Endup 401 6th St., 415-646-0999
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000
[illegible] [illegible] 4th St., 415-[illegible]
The [illegible] [illegible] Van Ness Ave., 415-[illegible]
Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St., 415-885-0750
[illegible] [illegible] Polk St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] 8th St., 415-[illegible]
The Independent 628 Divisadero St., 415-771-1421
[illegible] Bar & Grill [illegible] Geary Blvd., 415-[illegible]
Jazz at Pearl's 256 Columbus Ave., 415-291-8255
[illegible] [illegible] O'Farrell St., 415-[illegible]
The [illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Divisadero St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 3225 22nd St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 444 [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
The [illegible] [illegible] West Portal Ave.
The [illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 1000 Great Highway, 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Powell St., 415-[illegible]
Pier 23 The Embarcadero, 415-[illegible]
Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 222 [illegible] St.
[illegible] [illegible] Ave., 415-[illegible]
Slim's 333 11th St., 415-522-0333
[illegible] [illegible] 9th St., 415-[illegible]
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[illegible] 561 Geary St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 540 Howard St.
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
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[illegible] [illegible] Bush St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge 443 Broadway St., 415-[illegible]
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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 4

EAST BAY

The Big Mix of Bay Boom [illegible] house & deep [illegible]. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 11 pm, free

College Night w/ DJ [illegible] and Joe G. spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40. White Horse Inn, 9 pm, $3

College Night [illegible] hip-hop, Top 40 [illegible]. 9:30 pm

DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible]. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm, free

Happy Hour w/ DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], 7 pm, free

House of Windsor the Duke of Windsor, [illegible]. Mission Lounge, 10 pm, free

Tasty ladies' night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B. 9 pm, $12

Thursday Throwdown w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop classics, '80s, [illegible], soul. 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Afrolicious w/ DJs [illegible] spinning Afro-[illegible]. 10 pm, $6

Bearden [illegible] w/ [illegible]. 10 pm, TBA

FRIDAY 5

EAST BAY

[illegible] Friday DJ [illegible] plays music from the '80s, '90s, 9 pm, free

Das Job w/ DJs [illegible] and his friends spinning [illegible]. [illegible] Lounge. 10 pm, free

Flashback Fridays DJs [illegible] (the Oakland Faders) play old-school hip-hop and funk. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm, $10

Fly w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B, [illegible]. The Vibe Lounge. 10 pm, $5 after 11 p.m., $10

Friday Night Reggae Party w/ DJ [illegible] & guests spinning reggae, R&B [illegible]. 10 pm, free

Hip-Hop [illegible] w/ [illegible]. 9 pm, $8

[illegible] 1st Fridays after-hours party. [illegible] Bar & Grill. 10 pm, $10, 2 for 1 before 11:30 p.m.

Latin [illegible] DJ [illegible] spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, [illegible], Spanish pop. [illegible] Bar. 9 pm-2 am, $12

[illegible] weekly in-house DJ [illegible]. 7:30 pm, free

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible]. 9 pm, free

[illegible] Tropical Lounge DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible] Latin jazz. La Torre [illegible] Cafe. 10:30 pm, free

[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins hip-hop, reggae, Top 40. White Horse Inn. 9 pm, $8

Old-School hip-hop and funk. [illegible] pm, free

Oldies Night with DJ [illegible] spinning reggae, soul, [illegible] & R&B. [illegible]. 10 pm, [illegible] 11:30 p.m.

[illegible] Styles DJs spin downtempo, R&B, house, electro, soul, funk, rock, hip-hop, rock, new wave, & more. Ruby [illegible]. 10 pm, free

[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins funk, Latin, & dub. Easy Lounge. 10 pm, free

[illegible] [illegible] night. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm, free

[illegible] the Tropics DJ [illegible] spins [illegible], reggae, [illegible] & more. [illegible] Lounge. 10:30 pm, free

Sexy Fridays w/ DJ [illegible] spinning salsa, hip-hop, & club hits. [illegible]. 6 pm, free

Soulful Fridays DJ [illegible] spin R&B & soul. Kincaid's Carnival. 9 pm, $5

Toasty w/ DJ [illegible] spinning northern soul, Motown, '60s, [illegible] punk, new wave & rock 'n' roll. Ruby Room. 10 pm, free

Vybz Int'l w/ DJs [illegible] spinning [illegible], dancehall, & soul. [illegible] Restaurant. 10 pm, $5

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] hip-hop w/ DJs [illegible]. 10 pm, $5

[illegible] DJs spin [illegible] & [illegible]. 10 pm, $5

[illegible] dance party w/ DJ [illegible] & hip-hop guests. 10 pm, $10

[illegible] Anniversary Celebration w/ [illegible]. 9 pm, $15-$20

[illegible] DJs [illegible] spin [illegible], hip-hop, & party classics. Madrone Lounge. 9 pm, $5 after 10 p.m.

DJ [illegible] spinning rock, hip-hop, new wave, R&B, '80s, indie & pop. 9 pm, free

DJ [illegible]. 10 pm, $5

[illegible] Fridays w/ hip-hop DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B, rock, & more. [illegible] Lounge. 9 pm, $5

Flashback Friday DJs [illegible] spin '80s and hip-hop. The Cellar. 10 pm, free before 10 p.m., $5 after

Fridays at the [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] spinning soul, funk. 6-9 pm, free

Future [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] dancefloor classics, soul, [illegible] hip-hop. [illegible] Lounge. 10 pm, $10-$15

[illegible] DJs [illegible]. The Endup. 11 pm, $15, free before midnight

[illegible] weekly in-house DJ [illegible] spinning. 7 pm, free

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] spinning bhangra, Bollywood, & beyond. [illegible] Cafe. 10 pm, $6

[illegible] DJs [illegible] & guests spin indie, electro, classics & new wave favorites. 10 pm, free before 10:30 p.m., $5

[illegible] [illegible] spinning rock, soul, [illegible]. The [illegible]. 10 pm, free

Blood Fridays w/ DJs [illegible] & Top 31. [illegible] Lounge. 10 pm, free

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning dark electro, industrial, new wave & goth. Cat Club. 9:30 pm, free before 10 p.m., $5

Sweat w/ DJs [illegible]. [illegible] Underground SF. 9 pm, $5

Vintage Fridays w/ [illegible] spinning classic and current Top 40, rock, hip-hop, & R&B. Dirty Martini. 9 pm, free

VIP Fridays w/ [illegible] DJs from the Bay Area and around the globe spinning hip-hop. Vessel. 9 pm, $20

SATURDAY 6

EAST BAY

Club [illegible] DJs [illegible] & Soul [illegible] spin R&B, soul, funk, & hip-hop. Maxwell's Lounge. 9 pm, $20

Soul Bay [illegible] DJ [illegible] spins classic, country, [illegible], honky-tonk, blues, & more. [illegible] Lounge. 10 pm, free

[illegible] DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spin [illegible]. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] spinning cumbia, reggaeton, salsa, [illegible], and dance-pop. [illegible] Room. 10 pm, $5

The [illegible] w/ the Field, [illegible]. 9 pm, $20

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] spinning [illegible]. [illegible] Club. 10 pm, $5

New Wave City DJs dance party. [illegible] Lounge. 9 pm, $7 before 10 p.m., $12

SUNDAY 7

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning dub, [illegible] & dancehall classics. 9 pm, $5

Super Soul Sundays w/ DJ [illegible] & guests. The Endup. 8 pm, $6

MONDAY 8

SAN FRANCISCO

Soul Cafe w/ DJ [illegible] and the [illegible] Lounge. 10 pm, $5

TUESDAY 9

EAST BAY

DJ [illegible] Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] spinning w/ hip-hop DJs. [illegible] Social Club. 9 pm, TBA

WEDNESDAY 10

EAST BAY

'80s Night with DJ [illegible] spins songs from the '80s plus drink specials by [illegible] Lounge. 9 pm, free

Afternoon [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning Egyptian funk, & more. Kitty's. 8 pm, free

[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins soulful [illegible]. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm, free

[illegible] Wednesdays DJ [illegible] spin reggae & dancehall. Kingman's. 10 pm, free

[illegible] dub, & dancehall with [illegible]. $5 before 11 p.m.

The Playground hip-hop night w/ DJs [illegible], dance & [illegible]. 9 pm, $3, free before 11 p.m.

[illegible] 'n' [illegible] DJs spin punk, indie, new wave, & classic rock. Ruby Room. 10 pm-2 am, free

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] spinning neo-soul, R&B, classic soul, & rare grooves. The Vibe Lounge. 10 pm, $5

[illegible] Wednesdays DJ [illegible] & hip-hop guests spin salsa, electro, merengue, reggaeton, & hip-hop, plus salsa dance lessons. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

1002 Nights DJ [illegible] guests North African & Middle Eastern grooves. Underground SF. 9 pm, $5

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] & guests spinning [illegible] & dancehall. 9 pm, free

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] spinning house. 10 pm, free

DJ [illegible] spinning salsa & reggae in [illegible]. 9 pm, $3

[illegible] DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spin [illegible] of rock, punk, & glam. [illegible]. 9 pm, free

[illegible] DJs spin hip-hop, R&B, reggae, & rare classics. The Cellar. 10 pm, free before 11 p.m., $10

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop mash-ups. 9 pm, $3

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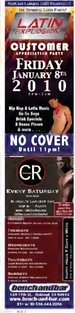
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Dan Savage

I am a queer lady in my twenties. My boyfriend and I recently discovered that we are both into BDSM. I've spent some time reading online BDSM erotica, and here's what's stressing me out: I tend to gravitate toward stories that include age play. I think pedophilia is wrong and disgusting, yet I get off on the stories. I can't stop feeling like I'm a huge pervert. Also, what is a good way to introduce the idea of age play to my boyfriend without sounding perverted? Is age play perverted?

Feeling Like A Pervert

You're already doing BDSM, so it's a little late to start concerning yourself with what is and isn't perverted. I'm not saying that BDSM is perverted — it isn't in my opinion — but the kind of people who obsess about the supposed perversity of other people's sex lives regard BDSM as hella perverted.

All you need to concern yourself with is consent — obtaining consent before anything goes down, maintaining a state of consent once things get going. Are you a consenting adult? Is your partner a consenting adult? Yes and yes? Then you're free to do whatever the hell you want in the sack — and that includes pretending that one of you isn't a consenting adult.

Adults can safely and ethically explore through fantasy and role-play things that we wouldn't or couldn't do in reality. A nice girl who would never dream of ever actually owning a human being can pretend to own a sex slave without having to forfeit her "nice girl" status; a decent guy who would never commit the crime of rape can pretend to rape a partner with rape fantasies without having to forfeit his "decent guy" status. The same goes for age play.

As for telling the boyfriend about it without sounding perverted: Sorry, can't help you there. It's going to sound perverted because the scenario you want to explore is all kinds of sick and wrong. Just own it when you tell him about it: "I know this is crazy and fucked up, but these stories really turn me on." You don't want to fuck kids; you want to pretend to be the kid your boyfriend fucks. He doesn't want to fuck kids, he wants to fuck you while you're pretending to be a kid.

My roommate is a young man with a conservative sensibility and traditional values. Recently one of his married coworkers (an attractive, bright, and sexy young lady in his appropriate age group) has been pursuing him to have an affair. I've met her personally and she's a very cool girl. Confident, socially graceful, and fun. She is currently in the process of separating from her husband, who has completely cut her off sexually.

My roommate is a good guy and wants no part of a sexual relationship with her while she's married. Even if she does separate, he is worried about being a rebound and simply not wanting to deal with the emotional baggage that comes with being her first sexual experience outside of her husband. I've told him to wait until she's separated, but then to go for it. Nothing ventured, nothing gained, right?

Dude In Seattle

Let me see if I follow you: If this woman were unmarried and unattached, your friend with the "traditional values" wouldn't have any problem fucking her? When did premarital sex become a "traditional value"?

Frankly, I don't care if your buddy fucks this woman or not. I'm just curious how we got to the point where anything goes for heterosexuals and nothing is a violation of "traditional values" so long as the fornicators are straight.

As for your friend, DIS, I've known a few guys who went on and on about how attracted they were to a particular woman and how much they wanted to fuck her in all of her orifices but just couldn't bring themselves to have hot premarital heterosexual sex because some technicality or other violated their traditional values. All of those guys eventually came out of the closet. Just sayin'.

Could you wax philosophical about a column from a few weeks ago? I want to know what makes Sexually Frustrated Fetishist's preference to involve feet in sex morally preferable to his partner's preference not to do so? Why is her insistence "selfish" while his insistence merely reflects his "sexual fulfillment"? More generally, what is the reason for your tendency to side with the person who wants to do x, even to the point of encouraging infidelity, over the person who doesn't want to do x?"

Skeptical Kinky Compromiser

I don't always side with the kinksters. I've come down squarely on the side of the person who doesn't want to do "x" — I've backed women who didn't want to cuckold their husbands, and guys who didn't want to have same-sex contact during a threesome — on many occasions. But I do encourage people to be good, giving, and game (GGG), which requires us to consider our partner's reasonable sexual requests. I've never suggested that all requests must be fulfilled.

I'll wax now for a moment: The odds that any one of us will wind up with a partner whose sexual interests align perfectly with our own are essentially zero. Since no two people are a perfect fit sexually, SKC, both partners must engage in a good-faith give-and-take to craft a mutually satisfying sexual repertoire that doesn't leave either person feeling resentful or badly used. Does everyone get everything they want? Nope. But each of us has a right to put our needs out there and a concurrent responsibility to meet our partner's needs if at all possible. And each of us should have the sense to pull the plug when the disconnect is too great.

As to the particulars of SFF's case — what makes his request for foot action reasonable and his girlfriend's refusal to indulge him unreasonable — it comes down to just what is being asked of the nonkinky partner. SFF is asking his girlfriend to kick off her shoes every once in a while and allow him to treat her feet the way another man might treat his girlfriend's breasts. It's not too much to ask, and an unselfish lover wouldn't regard it as too much to give. ●

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[illegible] Dental Design 12/16, 12/23, 12/30, 1/6/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 432139-432140

The following individual is doing business as **Dogwood & Bar [illegible]**, [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: [illegible] Oakland, CA 94612, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] LLC, [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/1/2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 12/08/2009.

Dogwood & [illegible] 1/6, 1/16, 1/20, 1/27/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 432170

The following individual is doing business as **Marlon's [illegible] LLP**, Street Address: [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Suite 707, Oakland, CA 94612. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owners: [illegible] Ave., Oakland, CA 94610 [illegible] Kensington, CA 94715. [illegible] The business is conducted by Limited liability partnership. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/2/2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 12/25/2009.

[illegible] LLP 12/16, 12/23, 12/30, 1/6/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 432071

The following individual is doing business as **Sid Green's Hopping Collective**, Street Address: [illegible] Ave #420, [illegible]. Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owners: [illegible] Ave #220, [illegible] Grove, CA 93950, [illegible] High Court #[illegible] Berkeley, CA 94708 [illegible] Street #27 [illegible] CA 95430. This business is conducted by an Unincorporated Association other than partnership. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on December 1, 2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 12/15/2009.

Sid Green's Hopping Collective 1/7, 1/16, 1/20, 1/27/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 432036

The following individual is doing business as **Gabriel [illegible] Photography**, Street Address: 1050 41 St [illegible] Oakland, CA 94601. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owners: [illegible] 3601 Gaye Street, Oakland, CA 94612 [illegible] 3601 Gaye Street, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on June 1997. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 12/5/2009.

Gabriel Marchetti Photography 12/23, 12/30, 1/6, 1/6/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 432100

The following individual is doing business as **Big Top Cooperative**, Street Address: 873 [illegible] Oakland, CA 94607. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owners: [illegible] St. Berkeley, CA 94702 [illegible] 2343 Mellon Ave., Berkeley, CA 94607. This business is conducted by Copartners. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/05/2009.

Big Top Cooperative 1/6, 1/16, 1/20, 1/27/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 432700

The following individual is doing business as **Statement Consulting Assoc.**, Street Address: 2633 Acorn Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 2638 Acorn Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 12/11/2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 12/21/2009.

Statement Consulting Assoc. 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 432700

The following individual is doing business as **Pixelsleuer LLC**, Street Address: [illegible] Bay Route, Albany, CA 94706. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] LLC, [illegible] Bay Route, Albany, CA 94706. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 12/22/2009.

Pixelsleuer LLC 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 432063-00

The following individual is doing business as **Law [illegible] of [illegible]**, Street Address: 3013 [illegible] Place, Fremont, CA 94555. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 3013 [illegible] Place, Fremont, CA 94555. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/11/2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/1/2009.

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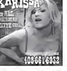

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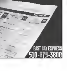

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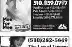

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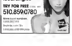

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